

478(1)

1 Mr. Swinson  
2 Library



BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

W. 1010

**REPORT**



**on the**

**Health of Oldbury**

For the Year 1959

2



Borough



of Oldbury

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
**and**  
**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
**For the Year 1959.**

---

Medical Officer of Health:  
**HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**

Chief Public Health Inspector:  
**WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.**

---

**PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE COUNCIL.**

---

The Midland Printing Company, Limited, Simpson Street  
Oldbury

# BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

---

## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

ALDERMAN F. W. THOMPSON, J.P., *Chairman.*

COUNCILLOR W. CARTER, *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN A. GUNN, C.C.

ALDERMAN S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. E. GARRATT, J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. STARKIE, C.C.

COUNCILLOR J. G. DAVIES.

COUNCILLOR F. GILES, C.C.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. J. GUNN, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. PINE.

---

## OLDBURY AREA HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE, 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

### County Council Representatives:

MR. J. W. BRIGHT, J.P., C.A.

MRS. E. M. GOODE, C.C.

MR. J. M. C. HIGGS, C.C.

MAJOR M. F. S. JEWELL, C.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

MR. H. PARKES, J.P., C.A.

MR. S. T. MELSOM, O.B.E., J.P., C.A., *Chairman.*

### Oldbury Borough Council Representatives:

ALDERMAN A. GUNN, C.C.

ALDERMAN J. W. HOLLAND.

ALDERMAN B. T. ROBBINS, J.P., C.C., *Vice-Chairman.*

ALDERMAN F. W. THOMPSON, J.P.

COUNCILLOR W. CARTER.

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. M. J. GUNN, J.P., C.C.

### Co-opted Members:

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. STARKIE, C.C.

(representing the Oldbury Committee for Education).

MRS. W. S. PETERS

(representing the Women's Voluntary Service).

## **STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

### **Medical Officer of Health:**

HENRY TABBUSH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### **Deputy Medical Officer of Health:**

G. R. THORPE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

### **Assistant Medical Officer:**

### **Divisional Dental Officer:**

JAMES RODGERS, D.F.M., L.D.S., R.F.P.S.

ALMA M. FACER, L.D.S. (Part-time).

### **Ophthalmic Specialist (Part-time):**

GUY F. G. SIGGINS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

### **Chief Public Health Inspector:**

WILLIAM J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.i.)

Deputy Chief—F. W. KEENE, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.k.)

*Additional*—F. J. ANDREWS, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

E. N. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

C. C. WILKES, M.A.P.H.I. (a.b.)

J. A. JEAVONS (a.)

### **Senior Health Visitor—School Nurse:**

MISS M. R. CLARKE, (c.d.e.)

### **Health Visitor—School Nurses:**

MISS H. STANSFIELD (c.d.e.)

MISS B. M. LAMB (c.d.e.)

MISS M. LEE (c.d.e.)

MISS E. A. HASTIE (c.d.e.) (Resigned 31.12.59).

MRS. J. BUTLER (c.d.e.) (Commenced 1.4.59).

### **Tuberculosis Visitor:**

MISS L. L. PRESCOTT (e.) (Resigned 30.6.59).

MRS. A. MURRAY (e.) (Commenced 1.7.59).

### **Senior Midwife/District Nurse:**

MISS E. F. E. MONK (c.d.e.j.)

### **Municipal Midwives:**

NURSE M. M. BISHOP (d.e.)	NURSE K. STENNETT (d.e.f.)
„ B. EWINGS (d.e.)	„ A. M. WILLIAMS (d.)
„ H. GALLAGHER (d.)	

### **District Nurses:**

MRS. S. J. GALLAGHER (e.)	MRS. V. M. MASSEY (e.)
„ E. L. YARRANTON (g.)	(Resigned 31.5.59)
„ L. I. BAKER (g.)	„ E. DAVIES (g.)
MISS M. BASTERFIELD (g.)	(Resigned 30.9.59)
MRS. M. O'BRIEN (e.j.)	„ A. OLDHAM (e.j.)
(Commenced 1.8.59)	(Commenced 2.11.59)

### **Clerical Staff:**

#### **HEALTH:**

Chief Clerk—S. ASTLEY	Senior Clerk—T. K. BOSTON
MRS. D. M. EGGINTON	Miss S. PARTINGTON
(Resigned 30.5.59)	„ E. YORK
MISS M. E. HOLMES	„ I. THOMAS
(Shorthand-Typist)	„ J. A. SMITH
(Commenced 8.6.59)	

#### **SANITARY:**

Chief Clerk—F. W. HACKETT	
MISS M. CALLCOTT	A. G. SABIN
(Shorthand-Typist)	J. CUTLER, Cleansing Depot.
R. A. MADDOCK	(Weighbridge Clerk)

---

### **NOTES.**

- (a) Holds the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
- (b) Holds the Meat and Foods Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- (c) Holds the Health Visitors' Certificate approved by the Ministry of Health.
- (d) Holds the Midwives' Certificate granted by the Central Midwives Board.
- (e) State Registered Nurse.
- (f) Holds the Midwives Teachers' Diploma.
- (g) State Enrolled Assistant Nurse.
- (h)
- (i) Honours Certificate of the Institute of Hygiene
- (j) Queen's Institute of District Nursing.
- (k) Holds the Smoke Inspectors' Certificate granted by the Royal Sanitary Institute.



BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health.

For the Year 1959.

---

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the  
Borough of Oldbury.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report on the health of the Borough for the year 1959.

### Vital Statistics.

The standardised death rate in Oldbury at 13.91 per thousand was higher than in the previous year and compares unfavourably with the rate of 11.6 for England and Wales. The most significant increases were deaths from coronary and other heart diseases and from cancer. Cancer of the lung accounted for the death of 23 men and 1 woman—an increase of 7 over the previous year. The total deaths from cancer increased from 88 in 1958 to 107 in 1959, the highest total ever reached in Oldbury. On the other hand, for the first time in its history, the Borough has not had a single death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

It may well be concluded from these figures that now that we are successfully treating or preventing the diseases which in the past were fatal to children and young adults, more of us are reaching the age at which cancer and heart disease take their toll. But we must not regard these latter diseases as inevitable. Earlier diagnosis and treatment and a wider knowledge of the symptoms and curability of some forms of cancer should help to some extent to reduce the deaths from this scourge, but concentrated research

into the causative and related factors concerned in the production of cancer and coronary diseases and the prompt application of the results of that research would be of much greater effect in increasing our expectation of life. For example, although Mass Radiography has resulted in many discoveries of lung cancer at a stage early enough for successful treatment, the relationship between cigarette smoking and cancer of the lung is now so conclusively proved that there can be little doubt that if we were all able to conquer this pernicious habit now, there would be a marked downward trend in the figures of deaths from this disease in the years ahead. It should be noted that men are almost exclusively the victims of the increasing incidence of lung cancer. Since men and women breathe the same atmosphere it would seem highly improbable that a cause should be found in the air we breathe. On the other hand it is known that certain occupations carry the risk of producing cancer and that many years of exposure are required before the disease appears. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that men must have been exposed to some growth-producing substance 20-25 years ago to which women were not exposed. This could have been an occupational hazard but it could also be accounted for by the fact that few women smoked cigarettes in the 1930's.

The Infant Mortality Rate of 21.76 compares with the rate for England and Wales of 22 and shows a welcome reduction of the rate of 29.37 in the previous year. Nevertheless the rate could have been even lower since the three deaths from asphyxia could have been prevented by a higher standard of maternal care. Every mother should realise that the use of soft pillows in pram or cot can lead to these tragedies, particularly if the baby is left unattended for any length of time.

The Perinatal Mortality Rate, which indicates the number of babies that die before or within the first week after birth was 42.23, which compares unfavourably with the figure for the previous year of 32.80. This was due to a considerable increase in the number of stillbirths. Out of a total of 24 babies that died before birth, 21 were delivered in hospital and 3 at home. In every case a doctor and midwife had been booked and ante-natal supervision was undertaken by the hospital staff or the patient's own doctor. None of the patients attended the ante-natal clinics run by the Health Department. The majority of stillbirths were



premature births resulting from toxæmia and ante partum hæmorrhage. Of the full-term births 3 were breech deliveries. The conclusion to be drawn is that there is room for improvement in the Maternity Services provided for Oldbury mothers.

### **Infectious Diseases.**

Only 27 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year and, as stated above, there were no deaths from this disease. When we compare these figures with those for 1949, only ten years previously, when the new cases were 65 and there were 28 deaths, we can be justifiably optimistic. The total elimination of this disease is now within our reach but it will require an intensification of all the methods of detection, prevention and cure at present in use, to achieve this desirable end.

It is pleasing to record that there were no deaths from any notifiable infectious disease during the year.

The incidence of measles was very high. This highly infectious disease has the peculiar characteristic of assuming epidemic proportions every two years. Fortunately it is nowadays a mild illness and rarely gives rise to any complications. Nevertheless its prevention would be desirable and research on the production of a suitable vaccine should be promoted.

There are still too many cases of dysentery and food poisoning. Greater attention to personal hygiene among food handlers in shops, canteens and at home would help to reduce the incidence of these uncomfortable diseases. Attempts to control their spread are rendered more difficult by parents failing to obtain medical treatment and there is reason to believe that many cases treated by doctors are not notified to the Department.

### **Housing.**

There was an improvement over the previous year in the number of dwellings completed and as a result it was possible to make some progress with slum clearance. During the year 83 unfit houses were demolished and 11 closed. The number of houses in course of erection at the close of the year was only 144 and it must be stressed once again that it is essential that the provision of alternative accommodation must be increased if we are to make the desired progress in dealing with the unfit houses in the town.

### **Family Planning.**

There are many unwanted babies being born to mothers of large families who cannot cope adequately with the children they already have. Planning of the size and spacing of a family in accordance with the wishes of both parents is conducive to greater health and happiness. The regular weekly clinics organised by the F.P.A. continue to be well attended and are of great value in promoting the welfare of the community which derives from the mental and physical health of the families composing it.

### **Welfare.**

The administration of services for the elderly and for the physically and mentally handicapped is carried out by the County Health Committee. Close and cordial co-operation in these services is maintained through the Oldbury Area Health Sub-Committee. An instance of this co-operation was the inauguration during the year of a meals-on-wheels service for supplying hot mid-day meals to elderly and handicapped people living alone.

The initiative came from the Women's Voluntary Service. The County Council made a grant towards the cost of the equipment and continues to pay grants based on the number of meals served. The Borough Council have made available a suitable vehicle and driver. The hard work which members of the W.V.S. put into the organisation of this service and the preparation and distribution of meals is highly commendable. The service fulfils a very real need and is greatly appreciated by those who benefit from it.

The needs of blind people in the Borough are being met by the Oldbury Branch of the Worcestershire Association which is active in promoting their welfare.

### **Deprived Children.**

The need for more foster-homes which was mentioned in my last report received some publicity in the Press. As a result 14 offers of homes were received. Investigation by the Children's Department showed that 10 of these homes were suitable and in only 4 cases the homes were unsuitable or the offer was withdrawn. Some of the offers came from homes outside Worcestershire and when they were approved, the Children's Department of the appropriate Local Authority was informed. This very en-

couraging result would appear to be evidence that if the needs for foster-homes were more widely known to the public more homes would be made available to children who otherwise have to live in residential homes and nurseries provided by Local Authorities. However good the accommodation and care in the latter may be, it can never bring to the child the benefits to be derived from being brought up as part of the family in a suitable foster-home.

I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the help and understanding I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and of the Area Health Sub-Committee, and to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to the staff of the Health Department, medical, nursing and clerical, for their loyal co-operation, and to my colleagues in other Departments, who have been helpful at all times.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY TABBUSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Health Department,  
Greenwood Avenue,  
Langley, Oldbury.  
July, 1960.

Tel. No.: BROadwell 2041/2.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name	Situation	Sessions	Accommodation
Oldbury I.W.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Monday, 2 p.m.	Consulting, Infant Weighing and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley I.W.	"The Hollies," Langley	Wednesday and Friday, 2 p.m.	do.
Warley I.W.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.	do.
Oldbury A.N.	Wesley Street, Oldbury	Alternate Fridays, 2 p.m.	Consulting and Wait- ing Rooms
Langley A.N.	"The Hollies," Langley	Alternate Thurs., 2 p.m.	do.
Warley A.N.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Alternate Wed., 2 p.m.	do.
School Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9.30 a.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
School Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9.30 a.m.	do.
School Clinic	"The Hollies," Langley	M.O. and Nurse Daily, 9—9.30 a.m.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Tabernacle Clinic, Oldbury	Thursday, 9—4.30 p.m. Friday, 9—12 noon.	do.
Dental Clinic, S.M.S.	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Daily, 9—5 p.m.	do.
M. & C.W.	do.	Monday, 6-30 p.m.	do.
Scabies Clinic	Cleansing Station, Brookfields Rd., Langley	By appointment	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Ophthalmic Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Friday, 9 a.m. Alternate Wed. 1-30 p.m.	Consulting, Treatment and Waiting Rooms
Sunray Clinic	Bleakhouse Rd., Warley	Wednesday, 10 a.m.	Treatment and Wait- ing Rooms
Sunray Clinic	"The Hollies," Langley	Tuesday, 2 p.m.	do.
Sunray Clinic	Tabernacle Clinic,	Monday, 10 a.m.	do.
Chest Clinic	Greenwood Av. Langley	Monday, 11—12.30 p.m. and 2—4 p.m. Friday, 11—12 noon	do.

## II

### 1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	3,304
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate Mid-1959)					55,310
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...		53,887
Number of inhabited houses at 31.12.59)	...	...	...		16,468
Rateable Value (1st April, 1959)	...	...	...		£689,989
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...		£2,303
General Rate—1958-59	...	...	...		18s. 9d.
Unemployment—31st December, 1959:—					
Wholly unemployed—					
Men and Boys	...	...	...		89
Women and Girls	...	...	...		45
Temporary stoppage—					
Men and Boys	...	...	...		Nil
Women and Girls	...	...	...		Nil

### 2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

				M.	F.	Total
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	...	391	366	757
	{ Illegitimate	...	...	9	15	24
	Totals	...	...	400	381	781
<hr/>						
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the population	...	...	...			14.12
Area Comparability-Factor						
(Births)	...	...	0.96	Standardised Birth-rate	...	13.55
Still-births	...	...	24	Rate per 1,000 total births	...	29.81
Deaths	...	...	542	Death-rate (Crude)	...	9.79
Area Comparability-Factor						
(Deaths)	...	...	1.42	Standardised Death-rate	...	13.91
<hr/>						
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth was Nil						Rate per 1000 Births (Live and Still)
						... 0.00
Death-rates of Infants under one year:—						
All Infants per 1,000 live births		...	...	(17)		21.76
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate live births		...	...	(17)		22.45
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate live births		...	...	(—)		00.00
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)						107
Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (all ages)						Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)						Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)						Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)						Nil



### 3.—BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.

				Live Birth Rate	Death Rate
England and Wales	...	...	...	16.5	11.6
London	...	...	...	17.3	11.9
OLDBURY	...	...	...	13.55	13.91

#### POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates that 55,310 persons were resident in the Oldbury area at Mid-1959. The "natural increase of population," that is excess of births over deaths, during the year was 239.

#### DEATHS.

In 1959, 325 deaths were registered in the Oldbury area. 15 of these deaths were persons not normally resident in the district, and 232 Oldbury residents died outside the district. The aggregate number of deaths for the year was 542, representing a crude death rate of 9.79 per thousand of the estimated population and a standardised death rate of 13.91 per thousand of the population. The corresponding figures for 1958 were 514 total deaths, a crude death rate of 9.32, and a standardised death rate of 13.24.

Of the 542 deaths, 17 were of infants under one year of age, representing an infantile mortality rate of 21.76 per thousand live births. In 1958 there were 22 deaths under one year of age and an infantile mortality rate of 29.37 per thousand live births.

The most frequent causes of deaths, the number of deaths so registered, and the corresponding death rates per thousand of the population were:—

Heart Disease	187	deaths equivalent to a death rate of 3.380
Cancer	107	" " " " 1.934
Vascular Lesions	73	" " " " 1.319
Bronchitis	30	" " " " 0.542
Pneumonia	27	" " " " 0.488
Tuberculosis (all forms)	Nil	" " " " 0.000

Heart Disease occupies first place as primary cause of death.

#### HEART DISEASE.

Of the 187 deaths recorded as due to heart disease, 124 relate to persons over the age of 65 and only 11 were in respect of persons under 45 years of age.



### CANCER.

For the purposes of comparison the following table gives a summary of deaths from Cancer, and the age distribution of those deaths during the past sixteen years.

Year	ESTIMATED POPULATION	NUMBER OF DEATHS			Rate per 1000 Pop.	AGE DISTRIBUTION				
		Males	Fe- males	Total		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-45 Years	45-65 Years	65 years & over
1944	50,220	32	33	65	1.29	1	1	7	23	33
1945	50,040	42	27	69	1.37	..	..	6	29	33
1946	51,890	47	38	85	1.63	..	1	2	32	50
1947	52,510	62	40	102	1.94	..	..	10	34	58
1948	53,350	42	41	83	1.55	..	..	11	36	36
1949	53,380	45	48	93	1.74	..	..	5	43	45
1950	53,820	49	36	85	1.57	1	..	7	33	45
1951	53,740	39	36	75	1.39	1	..	5	36	33
1952	53,790	46	36	82	1.52	1	1	5	33	42
1953	53,820	36	29	65	1.20	..	..	6	29	30
1954	54,030	53	37	90	1.66	..	1	8	32	49
1955	54,550	41	47	88	1.61	1	1	12	32	42
1956	54,840	54	43	97	1.76	..	..	8	48	41
1957	54,770	51	41	92	1.67	..	..	12	41	39
1958	55,100	41	47	88	1.59	..	..	3	43	42
1959	55,310	60	47	107	1.93	1	1	4	44	57

An analysis of the deaths from malignant disease shows that the site of the cancer causing death was as follows:—

Site	No.	Age Range	Male		No.	Age Range	Female	
			Average Age	Average Age			Average Age	Average Age
1. Intestinal Tract:								
a. Stomach	...	8	58-86	71	6	67-84	77	77
b. Biliary passages	—	—	—	—	2	77-78	77	77
c. Liver	...	—	—	—	1	77	77	77
d. Colon	...	6	32-80	62	4	54-84	76	76
e. Rectum	...	5	48-80	65	2	62-84	73	73
2. Female Generative Organs:								
a. Uterus	...	—	—	—	3	49-79	62	62
b. Ovary	...	—	—	—	3	38-61	53	53
3. Respiratory Tract:								
a. Lung	...	9	55-76	65	1	80	80	80
b. Bronchus	...	14	49-76	60	—	—	—	—
c. Pharynx	...	1	64	64	—	—	—	—
d. Mediastinum	...	1	54	54	—	—	—	—
e. Post Cricoid	...	1	61	61	—	—	—	—

	Site	Male			Female		
		No.	Age Range	Average Age	No.	Age Range	Average Age
4. Urinary Tract:							
a. Bladder	...	1	65	65	1	84	84
b. Prostate	...	5	65-86	74	—	—	—
5. Glands.							
a. Gall Bladder	...	—	—	—	1	60	60
b. Thyroid	...	—	—	—	1	65	65
c. Pancreas	...	3	62-68	65	4	55-74	67
d. Breast	...	—	—	—	12	47-77	61
6. Skin	...	1	56	56	—	—	—
7. Bone	...	—	—	—	2	15-86	50
8. Brain	...	1	2	2	1	72	72
9. Miscellaneous	...	4	57-72	64	3	41-85	43
Totals		60	2-86	63	47	15-86	66

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

### Diphtheria.

Tables IVa and IVb summarising the work of Immunisation will be found at the end of the Report.

There were no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The following table gives the position at 31st December, 1959:

Class	Estimated Population	No. of Acceptances	%	INJECTIONS				Failure to attend for 1st or 2nd
				Waiting for 1st	Had 1st	Had 2nd	Had 3rd	
Children born 1943 - 1959	14500	10749	74.1	13	26	1474	9165	71
Young persons born 1933 - 1942	8400	3201	38.1	2	4	2733	430	32
Other Groups:— (Expectant mothers, ambulance staff and families; General Practitioner and families, etc.).		489	—	1	4	319	154	11
TOTALS:		14439	—	16	34	4526	9749	114

**Scarlet Fever.**

46 cases were notified compared with 71 in 1958. The disease in the main was mild in character and of relatively little significance. Only complicated cases are admitted to Hospital, none in 1959, compared with 1 in 1958.

**Pneumonia.**

75 cases notified, and 27 deaths reported during the year.

**Influenza.**

12 deaths in 1959 compared with Nil in 1958.

**Erysipelas.**

Three cases were notified during the year as compared with 1 during 1958.

**Measles and Whooping Cough.**

There were 1,191 cases of Measles and 100 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to these diseases.

*Whooping Cough Immunisation at 31st December, 1959.*

Year of Birth	Year of Immunisation												Totals
	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	
1959	110												110
1958	313	77											390
1957	27	339	123										489
1956	19	31	320	65									435
1955	5	14	38	277	33								367
1954	28	11	15	24	201	30							309
1953	7	14	18	7	17	125							188
1952	1	8	21	9	8	17	64	6					134
1951	1		11	23	9	1	5	39					89
1950	3	3	5	3	17	4		4	19				58
1949				2	4	4		1	4	11	4		30
1948	1				1	3	2			1	40	2	50
1947			2	4	1	1	2	2			8	21	41
1946				1	3	2		1	1		4	1	13
1945			1		1	1		1	1		3		8
Totals	515	497	554	415	295	188	73	54	25	12	59	24	2711

**Meningococcal Infection.**

No cases were notified and there were no deaths.

**Tuberculosis.**

The following tables have been supplied by the Chest Physician, Dr. R. B. Mayfield, who comments:—

**LANGLEY CHEST CLINIC, 1959.****Clinic Attendances.**

Year	New cases other than Contacts	Total Attendances New and Old
Average 1954 to 1958	308	2848
1959	316	2899

**PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS IN OLDBURY.**

Year	Notifications	Deaths
Average 1944 to 1948	61	26
Average 1949 to 1953	60	16
Average 1945 to 1958	46	6
1959	27	0

The only notable change in the character of the work at this Clinic during the past year is the further decline of tuberculosis. A glance at the second of the above two tables is sufficient to appreciate the improved position.

There is no doubt that chemotherapy has contributed substantially towards reducing the death rate during the past ten years. Notifications did not at once follow this welcome downward trend, but are doing so now despite better methods of case-finding than have ever existed before. No reasonable person can deny that this destructive disease, which has plagued mankind from time immemorial, is at last coming under real control. Vigilance and effort must continue for many years before elimination is achieved.

but guarded optimism is now permissible and encouragement derives from the fact that, as far as can be discovered, no Oldbury resident died from Tuberculosis in 1959. Such an occurrence would have seemed almost incredible as recently as ten years ago.

The work done at the Chest Clinic has not declined correspondingly, both new cases and total attendances numbering about the same as in previous recent years. The number of new cases is maintained by a higher proportion of non-tuberculous chest disease, and chronic bronchitis is prominent here.

So far there is no easy solution to this problem but clean air to breathe is probably as important here as is clean milk to drink in relation to other ills. Attendances of old patients are not likely to diminish for many years yet, as old tuberculous patients must still be followed up for at least five years, and usually longer, as a safeguard both to the patients themselves and to the community. It appears, therefore, that much useful work lies ahead for Chest Clinics for some time to come.

Finally, it must be reported with regret that X-ray facilities remain unsatisfactory, and patients must still go elsewhere for these essential routine examinations. In this respect the continued assistance of the Smethwick Chest Clinic, Dudley Road Hospital and the visiting Mass Radiography Unit is greatly appreciated. Without their sustained efficient co-operation, the Langley Chest Clinic could not carry on its work.

*Movements of Patients in and out of Oldbury.*

Year	Transfers in	Transfers out
1955	20	16
1956	16	30
1957	9	64
1958	18	24
1959	10	16
Total for 5 years	73	150

**Mass Miniature Radiography.**

Extract from the report of Dr. L. A. McDowell, Medical Director, Birmingham Mobile Unit 'A'.

# LANGLEY G.P. SESSIONS.

Number examined	...	...	...	2,227
-----------------	-----	-----	-----	-------

## Tuberculous lesions:

Occasional Supervision	...	...	6
------------------------	-----	-----	---

Close Clinic Supervision or Treatment	7	3.1 per 1,000.
---------------------------------------	---	----------------

## Non-Tuberculous abnormality:

Referred to Clinic or Hospital	...	59
--------------------------------	-----	----

Others	...	...	...	99
--------	-----	-----	-----	----



The table below shows the number of notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the years 1945 to 1959.

*Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis—New Cases*

Year	Total	SEX		0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 Years & over
1945	50	Male	32	1	6	11	7	5	2
		Female	18	2	7	5	3	1	..
1946	81	Male	54	2	19	13	5	10	5
		Female	27	4	11	6	3	2	1
1947	55	Male	32	5	7	3	9	3	5
		Female	23	4	10	2	5	..	2
1948	59	Male	35	4	15	4	6	2	4
		Female	24	6	7	3	3	2	3
1949	65	Male	44	6	7	5	8	7	11
		Female	21	1	6	6	7	1	..
1950	56	Male	38	1	9	11	6	7	4
		Female	18	4	4	6	4	..	..
1951	70	Male	44	5	8	10	3	12	6
		Female	26	6	11	2	2	2	3
1952	54	Male	28	3	3	5	6	9	2
		Female	26	2	6	6	6	3	3
1953	56	Male	30	4	3	5	4	11	3
		Female	26	4	11	4	6	1	..
1954	61	Male	37	3	12	9	4	3	6
		Female	24	4	12	6	..	2	..
1955	50	Male	31	3	4	6	5	3	10
		Female	19	5	6	6	..	..	2
1956	38	Male	22	1	5	6	6	2	2
		Female	16	3	5	2	4	1	1
1957	35	Male	23	3	6	3	2	2	7
		Female	12	2	6	4	..	..	..
1958	44	Male	28	1	5	3	2	5	12
		Female	16	7	2	4	2	1	..
1959	27	Male	16	1	2	1	1	2	9
		Female	11	..	1	4	3	2	1

Three cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified in 1959.

Cases on the register at the end of the year were as follows:—

	Male		Female	
Pulmonary	...	(272) 280	(198)	198
Non-Pulmonary	...	(30) 28	(15)	18

Figures for 1958 in brackets.

The following table shows the sex and age groups of the deaths from respiratory tuberculosis since 1940:—

Year	Total	Death Rate	SEX	0-15 Years	15-25 Years	25-35 Years	35-45 Years	45-55 Years	55 years & over
1940	39	·77	Male 27 Female 12	.. ..	4 6	8 1	5 3	5 1	6 ..
1941	30	·59	Male 17 Female 13	.. 2	.. 4	6 2	1 3	3 ..	7 2
1942	34	·67	Male 22 Female 12	.. ..	5 6	3 1	4 5	7 ..	3 ..
1943	42	·83	Male 25 Female 17	.. 2	3 7	7 4	6 2	7 1	2 1
1944	26	·52	Male 13 Female 13	.. 1	1 3	4 1	1 4	3 1	4 3
1945	26	·52	Male 16 Female 10	.. ..	.. 3	4 3	2 2	3 2	7 ..
1946	38	·73	Male 23 Female 15	1 2	2 2	7 5	4 1	2 2	7 3
1947	27	·51	Male 20 Female 7	.. ..	4 1	4 3	5 3	2 ..	5 ..
1948	15	·28	Male 8 Female 7	.. ..	3 2	.. 2	1 3	4 ..	.. ..
1949	28	·52	Male 16 Female 12	1 ..	2 5	1 1	6 2	3 1	3 3
1950	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	1 ..	.. ..	.. 3	2 1	1 1	4 ..
1951	15	·27	Male 12 Female 3	.. ..	.. ..	3 2	.. ..	3 ..	6 1
1952	13	·24	Male 8 Female 5	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	3 2	2 ..	2 3
1953	11	·20	Male 6 Female 5	.. ..	.. 2	2 ..	.. 1	2 1	2 1
1954	12	·22	Male 10 Female 2	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 2	.. ..	8 ..
1955	6	·11	Male 5 Female 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	2 1	2 ..
1956	3	·05	Male 3 Female —	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	1 ..	.. ..	1 ..
1957	7	·12	Male 7 Female —	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	4 ..	3 ..
1958	4	·07	Male 2 Female 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	1 ..	.. 1	1 1
1959	Nil	Nil	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

			AGE DISTRIBUTION (YEARS)												WARD DISTRIBUTION						
			TOTALS	Under 1 year	1-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65 plus	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall
RESPIRATORY	MALE	No. on Register at 1-1-59 ...	272	—	8	13	9	28	31	56	52	45	21	9	35	31	42	22	47	50	45
		Additions	16				1		2	1	1	2	7	2	2	1	2	1	3	3	4
		Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
		Restored to Register...	2							2										1	1
		Inward Transfers ...	7				2			3	2					1	2			3	1
		Deletions	4									1	3		1	1		1			1
	FEMALE	Recovered ...	5			2		1		1		1				1		1		1	2
		Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
		Outward Transfers ...	8			1	1	1	2	2				1	1		3	1		2	1
		No. on Register at 31-12-59 ...	280	—	8	10	11	26	31	59	55	45	25	10	35	31	43	20	50	54	47
		No. on Register at 1-1-59 ...	198	—	18	9	16	29	29	51	30	10	4	2	24	19	44	16	32	38	25
		Additions	11						1	4	3	2	1				2	2	1	1	5
NON RESPIRATORY	MALE	Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
		Restored to Register...	1							1										1	
		Inward Transfers ...	3							2			1				3				
		Deletions	1											1							1
		Recovered ...	7		1	1		2	2	1							2		2	2	1
		Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
	FEMALE	Outward Transfers ...	7					5		1	1						3		1	3	
		No. on Register at 31-12-59 ...	198	—	17	8	6	22	28	56	32	12	6	1	24	19	44	18	30	35	28
		No. on Register at 1-1-59 ...	30	—	5	4	2	1	7	3	6	2	—	—	1	1	8	6	7	3	4
		Additions	—																		
		Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
		Restored to Register...	—																		
	FEMALE	Inward Transfers ...	—																		
		Deletions	—																		
		Died ...	—																		
		Recovered ...	1					1													1
		Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
		Outward Transfers ...	1			1													1		
NON RESPIRATORY	MALE	No. on Register at 31-12-59 ...	28	—	5	3	2	—	7	3	6	2	—	—	1	1	8	6	6	3	3
		No. on Register at 1-1-59 ...	15	—	4	—	2	1	3	3	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	4	3	3
		Additions	3						1	1		1			1		1	1			
		Heard of otherwise (Death Returns)	—																		
		Restored to Register...	—																		
		Inward Transfers ...	—																		
	FEMALE	Deletions	—																		
		Died ...	—																		
		Recovered ...	—																		
		Diagnosis not confirmed ...	—																		
		Outward Transfers ...	—																		
		No. on Register at 31-12-59 ...	18	—	4	—	2	1	4	4	1	2	—	—	2	1	4	1	4	3	3

AGE AND WARD DISTRIBUTION ARE THOSE OBTAINING AT DATE OF PRIMARY NOTIFICATION

DEATHS—All the Deaths removed from Register may not have actually occurred during 1959





### **National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50.**

On no occasion did the Council have to bear the cost of burial during the year.

### **National Assistance Act, 1948, and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.**

It was not necessary during the year to resort to Section 47 in order to remove, to suitable premises, a person in need of care and attention.

### **Mortuary.**

During the year 42 bodies were removed to the Mortuary and in each instance a post-mortem was conducted.

### **Medical Examinations.**

The staff of the department carried out 102 medical examinations for superannuation and employment purposes.

## **SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

### **Housing.**

Increased housing accommodation is still an urgent necessity in the Borough. Re-housing of tuberculous cases continues to merit top priority, but families living in overcrowded or insanitary accommodation are also given due consideration.

The Housing Manager informs me that he received 287 (164 sub-tenants, 123 tenants) new applications during the year, divisible into the following groups:—

223	with no children.
33	with one child.
20	with 2 children.
5	with 3 children.
4	with 4 children.
2	with 5 children.

Total applications on Housing Register at 31.12.59:—

Sub-Tenants	...	...	...	2,744.
Tenants	...	...	...	941.

The Borough Surveyor has supplied the following figures:—

Number of houses completed by the Corporation	...	106
Number of houses completed by private contractors	...	97
Number of Municipal houses and flats in course of erection at 31.12.59	...	144
Number of permanent dwellings erected since 8.5.1945	...	2,655

### **Water Supply.**

449 houses in the area are supplied with water from the mains by means of taps not actually in the house. The approximate population so served is 1,504. The remaining houses and population in the area receive water from mains direct to individual houses.

Specimen results of analysis by the County Analyst are as follows:—

				Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3
				—	—	—
<b>Physical Characters</b>	...	...	...	Colourless	Colourless	Colourless
Odour	...	...	...	None	None	None
Appearance	...	...	...	Clear	Clear	Clear
pH.	...	...	...	7.6	7.4	7.6

### Chemical Examination.

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100°C.)	...	...	...	—	—	—
Solids in solution (Dried at 180°C.)	...	...	...	297	288	261
Solids in solution (After ignition)	...	...	...	241	230	204
Chlorine present as chloride	...	...	...	44	27	37
Hardness—non-carbonate	...	...	...	95	100	70
Hardness—carbonate	...	...	...	115	110	95
Hardness, total	...	...	...	210	210	165
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	Trace	0.01	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	0.06	0.05	None
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	3.0	5.3	5.7
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	Trace	0.01	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C. (N/80 Permanganate)	...	...	...	0.20	1.30	0.13
Toxic Metals	...	...	...	None detected	None detected	None detected
Total Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	0.02	Trace	Trace
Fluorine	...	...	...	—	—	—

**Note.**—To convert the above parts per million to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.07.

### Bacteriological Examination.

Probable number of coliform bacilli:—

In two days at 37°C.	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.
Fæcal Coli Type	...	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.	Nil per 100 m.l.



## SERVICES ADMINISTERED ON BEHALF OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

#### Chief Statistics, 1959.

##### Registrar General's figures.

Live Births	...	...	...	...	781
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	13.55
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	...	...	...	...	3.07
Still-births	...	...	...	...	24
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	29.81
Total live and still-births	...	...	...	...	805
Infant deaths	...	...	...	...	17
Infant Mortality Rates—					
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	21.76
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	22.45
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	Nil
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	12.80
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	12.80
Perinatal mortality rate	...	...	...	...	42.23
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births	...	...	...	...	Nil

#### **Births.**

The total of 781 live births is divisible into 400 boys and 381 girls, giving a standardised live birth-rate of 13.55 per thousand estimated population.

Of the 781 live births, 24 were illegitimate (9 boys and 15 girls). One illegitimate still-birth was notified.

#### **Still-births.**

There were 24 still-births registered during 1959 giving a still-birth rate of 29.81 per thousand live and still-births, or 0.43 still-births per thousand of the population, as compared with 1958, when the number of still-births was 13; the still-birth rate 17.06 per thousand live and still-births, or 0.23 still-births per thousand population.

# **Premature Births.**

Notification of birth cards provide information about babies weighing 5½-lbs. or less at birth.

PREMATURE LIVE BIRTHS																	PREMATURE STILL-BIRTHS		
WEIGHT AT BIRTH	Born in Hospital			Born at home and nursed entirely at home			Born at home & transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in nursing home and nursed entirely there			Born in nursing home and transferred to hospital on or before 28th day			Born in Hospital	Born at home	Born in Nursing home	
	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days	Total	Died within 24 hrs. of birth	Survived 28 days				
(A) 3 lb. 4 oz. or less . . .	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	
(B) Over 3 lb. 4 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 6 oz. . .	9	—	7	—	—	—	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	
(C) Over 4 lb. 6 oz. up to and including 4 lb. 15 oz. . .	11	—	11	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	
(D) Over 4 lb. 15 oz. up to and including 5 lb. 8 oz. . .	23	—	22	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS . .	46	2	40	4	—	4	6	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	1	—	

### Infant Mortality.

There were 17 deaths of infants under one year of age and 10 of these deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life. This is equivalent to an Infant Mortality rate of 21.76 per thousand live births.

The corresponding figures for the previous ten years are:—

1949	...	30	deaths	or	34.12	per	1,000	live	births.
1950	...	25	„	or	30.30	„	„		
1951	...	19	„	or	24.51	„	„		
1952	...	18	„	or	24.09	„	„		
1953	...	25	„	or	31.05	„	„		
1954	...	22	„	or	29.53	„	„		
1955	...	16	„	or	21.88	„	„		
1956	...	15	„	or	18.67	„	„		
1957	...	19	„	or	24.35	„	„		
1958	...	22	„	or	29.37	„	„		

An analysis of the causes of death of infants will be found in the following table:—

#### *Infant Mortality during the Year 1959*

*Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.*

CAUSE OF DEATH	DAYS				Total under 1 Week	Total under 4 Weeks	MONTHS				Total under 1 Year
	0-1	1-2	2-3	6-7			1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	
Br. Pneumonia								1		1	2
Pneumonia of New Born	1				1	1					1
Prematurity	3		1		4	4					4
Atelectasis		2		1	3	3					3
Asphyxia							1	2			3
Cong. Heart							1				1
Encephalocele	1				1	1					1
Sub Arachnoid Haem.			1		1	1					1
Cerebral Anoxia									1		1
TOTALS	5	2	2	1	10	10	2	3	1	1	17

### Perinatal Mortality Rate.

The following table gives the Oldbury and the England and Wales Rates for the past ten years:—

Year	Stillbirth Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)		Neonatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births)		Perinatal Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Total Births)	
	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales	Oldbury	England and Wales
1959	29·81	21·0	12·80	15·8	42·23	34·2
1958	17·06	21·6	18·69	16·2	32·80	35·1
1957	28·64	22·5	16·66	16·5	43·58	36·2
1956	21·92	22·9	13·69	16·8	34·10	36·8
1955	22·72	23·2	16·41	17·3	36·09	37·6
1954	15·85	23·5	24·16	17·7	35·66	38·1
1953	27·77	22·5	16·14	17·7	39·85	37·0
1952	19·68	22·7	14·72	18·3	27·55	37·5
1951	17·74	23·0	16·77	18·8	32·95	38·1
1950	20·19	22·7	24·24	18·5	42·75	37·7

### Illegitimate Live Births.

The Illegitimate Live Birth Rate shows an increase on the figure for the previous year.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 Population	% of Total Live Births
1959	24	.43	3.07
1958	32	.58	4.27
1957	28	.51	3.58
1956	16	.29	1.99
1955	23	.42	3.14
1954	25	.46	3.35
1953	32	.59	3.97
1952	27	.50	3.61
1951	28	.52	3.54
1950	38	.70	4.51
1949	44	.824	5.26
1948	30	.562	3.26
1947	36	.685	3.43
1946	53	1.023	5.14
1945	54	1.079	5.21
1944	28	.557	2.52
1943	31	.618	2.73
1942	23	.469	2.24
1941	18	.364	2.08

### Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths during 1959.

### Midwives Act, 1936.

An indication of the work undertaken by the Domiciliary Midwives during the year can be obtained from the following table:—

YEAR	CONFINEMENTS				Total	Hospital Discharges before 14th day		Domiciliary cases wholly Breast Fed at 14th day	NATAL VISITS	
	DOCTOR BOOKED									
	No		Yes							
	Present at Delivery		Present at Delivery							
	Yes	No	Yes	No		Cases	Visits		Ante	Post
1953	—	41	42	242	325	254	687	214	2328	22
1954	—	17	40	218	275	338	926	218	2124	26
1955	—	16	21	261	298	314	989	218	1482	2
1956	—	7	20	259	286	459	1313	212	1622	—
1957	1	6	20	249	273	552	1625	207	1990	—
1958	—	3	25	221	249	417	1955	177	1971	—
1959	—	2	21	220	243	419	2167	157	2045	—

### Gas and Air Analgesia.

This service was made available to all expectant mothers from May, 1948. Out of 243 domiciliary cases, 185, or 76.1 per cent. availed themselves of the opportunity during the year, as compared with 75.5 per cent. in 1958.

### Notifications received from Midwives.

The following notifications were received from midwives practising in the Borough:—

Sending for medical aid	...	...	114
Artificial feeding	...	...	55
Liability to be a source of infection	...	...	6
Death of mother and/or child	...	...	—
Laying out of dead	...	...	—

### Puerperal Pyrexia.

Four cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified to the Department.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were two cases during the year.

### MEDICAL AID.

Medical aid was summoned by Midwives on 114 occasions up to the end of the year and a summary of the requests received is set out in the next page. In 113 instances a Medical Practitioner



had arranged to provide the patient with maternity medical services under the National Health Service.

### Mother—

Ruptured perineum	...	...	...	28
Episiotomy	...	...	...	8
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	7
Post-partum hæmorrhage	...	...	...	3
Pyrexia	...	...	...	6
Retained placenta	...	...	...	3
Breech presentation	...	...	...	4
Abnormal presentation	...	...	...	4
Delayed labour	...	...	...	6
Raised blood pressure	...	...	...	7
Obstetric shock	...	...	...	1
Epileptic fit	...	...	...	1
Threatened breast abscess	...	...	...	6
Fœtal heart irregular	...	...	...	1
Placenta prævia	...	...	...	1
Other causes	...	...	...	1
Total				87

### Baby—

Discharging eye	...	...	...	8
Prematurity	...	...	...	3
Cyanosis	...	...	...	4
Diarrhœa and vomiting	...	...	...	1
Septic spot	...	...	...	2
Asphyxia	...	...	...	3
Rash on arms, etc.	...	...	...	1
Still-born infant	...	...	...	1
Jaundice and pyrexia	...	...	...	1
Umbilical hernia	...	...	...	1
Fœtal distress	...	...	...	2
Total				27

### Accommodation for Maternity Cases.

The total number of births notified as having occurred in Hospitals, etc., outside the Borough was 555.

	Living	Still-born
Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich	325	12
Birmingham Maternity Hospital	17	1
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Selly Oak	28	—
Birmingham General Hospital	2	—
St. Chad's Hospital	130	5
Sorrento Maternity Hospital	1	—
Ronkswood Hospital	1	—
Dudley Road Hospital	12	3
Selly Oak Hospital	3	—
Marston Green Hospital	1	—
Mary Stevens' Maternity Home	2	—
Lordswood Maternity Home	9	—
Lyncroft House Maternity Home	2	—
Other private addresses	1	—
Totals	534	21



### Ante-Natal Clinics.

The attendances at the respective clinics were as follows:—

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
Number of Sessions	25	25	26	27	25	26	76	78
New Ante-Natal Cases .. ..	20	18	32	38	24	20	76	76
Total attendances	107	95	170	220	110	101	387	416
Average per Session .. ..	4.2	3.8	6.5	8.1	4.4	3.9	5.0	5.3
Blood Test only ..	46	37	74	79	66	89	186	205
Hospital booking only .. ..	97	84	131	136	58	62	286	282

The number of 76 new cases is 9.4 per cent. of the total registered births for the district.

Routine blood samples for the investigation of the Rhesus Factor, Wasserman Reaction and Hæmoglobin estimation are now taken at the Ante-Natal Clinics, and the results so far obtained undoubtedly justify the continuance of this procedure. This service is available to the patients of General Practitioners on request.

### Infant Welfare Clinics.

The three clinics at Langley, Oldbury and Warley continued to serve the Borough throughout the year. Two sessions per week were held at Langley and Warley, and one session per week at Oldbury.

567 babies under the age of 1 year attended the Clinics for the first time. This represented 72.6 per cent. of the registered live births. 38 children between 1 and 2 years and 50 children between the age of 2 and 5 years attended the Clinics for the first time during the year.

The following table gives particulars of attendances at the three Infant Welfare Clinics.

	OLDBURY		LANGLEY		WARLEY		TOTALS	
	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959	1958	1959
New Cases:—								
0-1 year	97	93	266	249	195	225	558	567
1-2 years	3	3	19	18	18	17	40	38
2-5 years	2	4	11	16	37	30	50	50
Total ..	102	100	296	283	250	272	648	655
Seen by Doctor:—								
0-1 year	407	405	885	1,085	791	913	2,083	2,403
1-2 years	31	46	70	89	75	72	176	207
2-5 years	25	25	30	66	74	53	129	144
Total ..	463	476	985	1,240	940	1,038	2,388	2,754
Attendances:—								
0-1 year	1,826	1,649	4,023	4,146	2,936	3,479	8,785	9,274
1-2 years	488	582	986	1,022	782	710	2,256	2,314
2-5 years	291	298	619	647	953	738	1,863	1,683
Total ..	2,605	2,529	5,628	5,815	4,671	4,927	12,904	13,271
Number of Sessions ..	49	48	104	103	100	100	253	251
Average Attendance ..	53	52	54	56	47	49	51	53
Children attending in 1959 (1958)								
Who were born in:—1959 (1958) ..	84	(90)	226	(221)	198	(168)	508	(479)
Who were born in:—1958 (1957) ..	86	(82)	201	(220)	162	(179)	449	(481)
Who were born in:—1957-54 (1956-53) ..	76	(96)	228	(201)	214	(237)	518	(534)
Total Children attending in 1959 (1958) ..	246	(268)	655	(642)	574	(584)	1,475	(1,494)

### Post-Natal Clinics

Attendances are, on the whole, disappointing, but this is now largely due to the obligation of Doctors under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to carry out routine post-natal examinations on their Maternity cases.

### Work of the Health Visitors.

During the year 13,257 visits were made to homes in the district and 739 sessions were taken up by attendance at Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Centres.

The work undertaken by the Health Visitors can be summarised as follows:—

	First visits	Total visits
Expectant Mothers ... ..	158	207
Children under 1 year of age ... ..	756	3,350
Children age 1 and under 2 years ... ..	—	2,104
Children age 2 and under 5 years ... ..	—	5,238
Other cases ... ..	—	744
Ineffective visits ... ..	—	1,614
Total ... ..		13,257

Number of children under 5 years visited during 1959 ... 3,775

Number of families or households visited during 1959 ... 3,085

### Voluntary Committees.

A Voluntary Committee operates at each Infant Welfare Clinic and they render valuable social and clerical service to the community. Their efforts in maintaining the happy relationship at our clinics and successfully arranging social functions in the form of outings, sales of work and competitions are very much appreciated.

### Sale of Dried Milk and Other Foods.

During the year dried milk and other foods to the value of £1,881 18s. 10d. were sold at the Welfare Clinics.

### Distribution of Welfare Foods.

The distribution of welfare foods formerly undertaken by the Ministry of Food continued during the year from the Infant Welfare Clinics and also from the Central Depot established at the Offices, Greenwood Avenue, Langley, Oldbury.

During the year the following items were distributed:—

National Dried Milk—Full Cream	...	7,442	tins.
Half Cream	...	315	tins.
Cod Liver Oil	...	2,040	bottles.
Vitamin A and D Tablets	...	1,360	packets.
Orange Juice	...	17,678	bottles.

### Medical Inspection of Pre-School Children between 3 and 5 years of age.

The following is a summary of the finding of medical inspections during 1959:—

Physical condition—Satisfactory	...	560	(100.0%)
Unsatisfactory	...	—	( — )
Total	...	560	

Defects found and referred for treatment:—

Skin	...	2	Lung Defect	...	—
Eye Defects	...	8	Developmental	...	—
Ear Defects	...	—	Orthopædic	...	3
Nose and Throat	...	3	Nervous System	...	—
Defective Speech	...	1	Psychological	...	1
Lymphatic Glands	...	—	Abdomen	...	—
Heart and Circulation	...	1	Other Defects	...	—

### Ophthalmic Treatment.

Those children attending the Welfare Clinics noted to be suffering from defective vision or other eye conditions are sent to Mr. Guy F. G. Siggins, the Ophthalmic Specialist at the School Clinic.

During 1959, 27 new cases attended and the following conditions were found to have been present:—

Strabismus	...	16
Simple Hypermetropia	...	1
Epiphora	...	1
Epicanthus	...	1
No defects found	...	7

### Dental Treatment—

#### Pre-School Children and Expectant and Nursing Mothers.

Treatment of the priority classes was continued at the clinics. The pre-school child was usually brought for the relief of pain, but a larger number of small children had conservative treatment than in the previous year.

The dental fitness of the pre-school child and the expectant and nursing mother is rightly considered to be essential, but only a small proportion of those entitled to treatment can obtain it, despite all sessions being fully utilised. The situation can be remedied. An educational drive which will reform dietary habits; the immediate use of fluoride to give added protection to children, and increased facilities for training dentists, are measures necessary on a national scale, but locally much can be done by good oral hygiene and there are many excellent examples amongst our patients.

			Expectant and Nursing Mothers	Children under five years
New Patients: Examined	...	...	66	110
Requiring treatment	...	...	66	87
Patients Treated: First visits	...	...	57	82
Subsequent visits	...	...	212	25
Made dentally fit	...	...	42	79
Scale and gum treatment	...	...	40	—
Fillings	...	...	182	82
Silver nitrate treatment	...	...	23	9
Crowns or inlays	...	...	—	—
Extractions	...	...	141	97
General anæsthetics	...	...	8	54
Dentures provided: Full	...	...	8	—
Partial	...	...	16	—
Radiographs	...	...	16	—

### Family Planning.

The Oldbury and District Family Planning Association continued their sessions at the Warley Clinic, Bleakhouse Road, Warley, each Wednesday from 6-30—7-30 p.m. There were 968 attendances at 48 sessions.

126 new patients attended during the year, the source of reference is set out in the following table:—

Source				
Health Visitors and Midwives	...	...	...	11
Local Doctors	...	...	...	29
Other Patients already attending	...	...	...	63
Newspaper advertisements	...	...	...	1
Transferred from other clinics	...	...	...	9
F.P.A.	...	...	...	4
Referred by Infant Welfare Centre	...	...	...	1
Social Worker	...	...	...	3
Clergyman	...	...	...	2
Voluntary Worker	...	...	...	2
Health Guide	...	...	...	1



### Home Nursing.

At the end of the year the equivalent whole-time nursing staff was  $6\frac{1}{2}$ . The following table summarises the work carried out during the year:—

	<i>Cases Attended</i>	<i>Visits Paid</i>
MEDICAL .. .. .	559	21,393
SURGICAL .. .. .	70	3,159
INFECTIOUS DISEASE .. ..	7	14
TUBERCULOSIS .. .. .	4	228
MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS ..	12	131
TOTAL .. .. .	652	24,925
AGE OF PATIENT AT FIRST VISIT	OVER 65	317
	UNDER 5	44
PATIENTS WHO HAD MORE THAN 24 VISITS IN YEAR .. ..	198	22,726

### Home Helps.

This service is organised by the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Service and during the year domestic help was provided in 16 maternity cases, 121 chronic sick cases and 3 other cases. There were 27 part-time (equivalent to 17.3 whole-time) and 2 whole-time Home Helps employed at the end of the year.

### Vaccination.

The following table gives details of the number of primary vaccinations carried out during the past ten years:—

Year	Under 1 year	AGE 1-4 years	GROUP 5-14 years	15 years & over	Clinic	General Practitioner	Total
1950	191	15	5	13	42	182	224
1951	245	26	4	8	127	156	283
1952	219	11	4	8	121	121	242
1953	245	16	14	9	138	146	284
1954	239	12	7	9	115	152	267
1955	217	17	10	6	126	124	250
1956	208	13	1	6	107	121	228
1957	289	25	15	13	128	214	342
1958	318	27	9	14	149	219	368
1959	353	32	12	25	202 220	202	422

### **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

In all 692 children were immunised in 1959, 611 under 5 years of age and 81 between 5 and 15 years of age and in addition 514 reinforcing injections were given, mainly to children aged 5 years.

Details of the state of Immunisation at the 31st December, 1959, are shown in Tables IVa and IVb.

### **Borough Ambulance Service.**

During the year 10,186 ordinary cases, 506 accident cases, 5,647 children to the occupational centre, and 323 maternity cases were transported. The total mileage covered was 67,545.

The vehicles include 1 Austin Sitting Case Ambulance, 1 Morris Ambulance (27 h.p.) and 3 Morris (16 h.p.) Ambulances.

The accident cases can be divided into:—

274 Road Accidents.

95 Works „

111 Home „

26 School „

Personnel at the Ambulance Station are on duty from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on call on rota from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. The number of cases transported between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year was 15,788 and 874 between 6 p.m. and 8 a.m.

TABLE I.—*Corrected Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) during 1959.*

Notifiable Disease	Cases Notified in Whole District													Total Cases Notified in each Ward						Total	Total cases removed to Hospital	
	At Ages—Years													Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley			Bristnall
	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 25	25 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards									
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	1	8	4	27	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	6	6	18	4	5	2	5	46	—
Whooping Cough ..	13	5	13	5	12	49	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	10	7	30	1	9	15	28	100	—
Measles ..	43	86	137	147	151	611	14	2	—	—	—	—	—	92	94	320	100	193	165	227	1191	3
Pneumonia ..	9	5	7	5	3	5	3	1	4	4	4	19	6	9	13	19	7	6	8	13	75	6
Dysentery ..	3	5	9	11	3	27	17	3	1	7	6	3	1	—	—	38	2	21	17	18	96	3
Food Poisoning ..	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	7	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	4	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	2	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
TOTALS ..	70	103	167	176	173	721	40	7	7	13	14	26	7	118	120	431	117	236	210	282	1524	12



TABLE II. CAUSES OF DEATH, 1959

Cause of Death	Detailed List No.—	All ages			AGE GROUPS														WARDS						
		TOTAL	M	F	0—4 months	4—12 months	1—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—25 years	25—35 years	35—45 years	45—55 years	55—65 years	65—75 years	75—85 years	85 and over	Central	Broadwell	Brandhall	Rounds Green	Langley	Warley	Bristnall
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	001—008	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. „ other .. ..	010—019	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Syphilitic disease .. ..	020—029	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Diphtheria .. ..	055	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping cough .. ..	056	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Meningococcal infections .. ..	057	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Acute poliomyelitis .. ..	080	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Measles .. ..	085	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases ..	Rest of 001—138	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	151	14	8	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	5	1	1	3	1	1	5	1	2
11. „ „ lung, bronchus .. ..	162, 163	24	23	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	13	5	3	...	2	1	9	2	2	4	4
12. „ „ breast .. ..	170	12	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	...	2	...	1	...	4	...	2	3	2
13. „ „ uterus .. ..	171—174	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms .. ..	Rest of 140-203, 205	54	29	25	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	3	5	11	16	13	3	4	4	11	5	8	11	11
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia .. ..	204	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1
16. Diabetes .. ..	260	8	3	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	1	...	...	...	3	1	3	...	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	330—334	73	34	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	6	28	25	6	6	10	17	5	10	12	13
18. Coronary disease, angina .. ..	420	85	53	32	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	9	29	21	15	5	5	5	25	6	13	12	19
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	440—443	12	7	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	3	1	1	1	4	...	1	1	4
20. Other heart disease .. ..	Rest of 410—443	90	46	44	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	2	8	22	39	14	9	13	15	11	12	11	19
21. „ circulatory disease .. ..	444—468	15	12	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	5	3	1	2	2	4	2	1	1	3
22. Influenza .. ..	480—483	12	10	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	4	2	...	...	1	2	2	4	2	1
23. Pneumonia .. ..	490—493	27	11	16	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	9	9	1	5	1	4	2	9	1	5
24. Bronchitis .. ..	500—502	30	22	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	12	5	5	4	6	5	1	5	6	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	470—475, 510—527	5	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	1
26. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum .. ..	540—541	8	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	5	...	...	1	...	3	...	1	2	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa ..	543, 571, 572, 764	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .. ..	590—594	4	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	2	1	...
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate .. ..	610	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. ..	640—689	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31. Congenital malformations .. ..	750—759	2	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	Rest of 001—795	30	16	14	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	4	6	3	3	4	5	...	5	8	5
33. Motor vehicle accidents .. ..	E810—835	5	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	2
34. All other accidents .. ..	E800—802, E840—963	16	11	5	1	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	2	1	2	2	2	1	4	4
35. Suicide .. ..	E963, 970—979	4	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	E964, 965, 980—999	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	TOTALS ..	542	308	234	12	5	2	2	2	3	1	9	16	40	111	157	138	44	50	55	121	42	87	83	104





TABLE III.

*Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Analysis of Mortality — 1959.*

Area	Live Births	Still Births	Deaths (Ex. Still-) births)	Deaths of Infants under One Year	DEATHS FROM							
					Malignant Neoplasm Lung Bronchus	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Tuberculosis (All Forms)	Influenza	Acute Poliomyelitis	Pneumonia	Coronary and Arteriosclerotic Heart Disease
ENGLAND AND WALES	16.5	21.0	11.6	22.2	0.46	0.00	—	0.08	0.17	0.00	0.60	1.87
LONDON	17.3	19.3	11.9	22.3	0.64	0.00	—	0.11	0.18	0.00	0.82	1.89
OLDBURY	13.55	29.81	13.91	21.76	0.43	—	—	—	0.21	—	0.48	1.53

LIVE BIRTH and DEATH RATES per 1,000 population  
 STILL BIRTH RATES per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births  
 INFANT MORTALITY RATES per 1,000 related live births

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

RATES per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	
ENGLAND and WALES	0.377
MATERNAL MORTALITY	.. .. .
Oldbury	NIL

**TABLE IVa.**  
**DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION**  
**at 31st DECEMBER, 1959**

AGE on 31 - 12 - 59 (Born in year).	Under 1 (1959)	1 - 4 (1955 - 8)	5 - 9 (1950 - 54)	10 - 14 (1945 - 9)	Total under 15 years.
A. No. of children who have completed course (Primary or boosting) in period 1955 - 59	115	1962	3061	2510	7648
B. No. of children who have completed course (Primary or booster) in period 1954 or earlier.	—	—	729	2080	2809
C. Estimated Mid-year child population.	760	2992	8660		12412
Immunity Index:—					
1959	15.13	65.67	64.33		61.61
1958	8.60	62.50	71.61		65.79
1957	11.22	61.75	73.16		66.80
1956	3.60	62.88	67.27		62.51
1955	5.02	67.60	68.19		64.26
1954	4.03	68.63	59.21		58.34

**TABLE IVb—DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION at 31st December, 1959**

COLUMN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
YEAR OF BIRTH	YEAR OF IMMUNISATION (PRIMARY OR BOOST)															Total Immu- nised at age in end Col.	Age at Date of Immu- sation (Years)
	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945		
1959	115 280	138 303	130 295	79 223	52 87	16 91	12 60	18 98	18 65	3 50	14 41	12 40	7 19	2 15	1	2,284	0-1
1958	48 25	51 34	66 40	107 32	41 15	142 9	11 13	38 2	60 26	22 8	28 15	55 12	59 12	96		1,067	1-2
1957	2 17	9 12	14 7	2 4	9 6	2 6	10 9	7 3	8 1	3 1	4 8	5 3	11			163	2-3
1956	8 8	11 11	8 7	7 7	7 3	4 12	4 29	4 4	2 3	— 7	2 13	1				162	3-4
1955	10 155	14 141	15 149	11 166	10 111	19 55	15 14	3 11	4 13	1 5	7					929	4-5
1954	289 71	374 67	355 6	278 97	346 130	347 67	33 62	21 84	36 43	14						2,720	5-6
1953	10 9	34 5	16 14	24 9	11 11	11 9	40 9	28 12	46							298	6-7
1952	4 4	5 8	7 3	6 4	2 6	1 9	8 8	5								80	7-8
1951	2 5	5 9	6 15	8 24	11 2	8 4	11									110	8-9
1950	1 1	56 181	418 253	426 247	382 214	390										2,569	9-10
1949	— 2	4 3	12 4	3 10	8											46	10-11
1948	— —	— 3	5 7	10												25	11-12
1947	— 1	2 1	—													2	12-13
1946	—															2	13-14
1945	—															—	14-15
TOTALS	1,067	1,481	1,852	1,784	1,464	1,202	348	338	325	114	132	128	108	113	1	10,457	
	7,648					2,327					482						
PRIMARY	692	720	749	510	723	817	824	717	706	*568	1,021	754	913	779	838	Immunisations in the Borough	
BOOSTER	514	829	1,298	1,247	1,225	1,387	1,726	667	555	*403	373	217					

\*Immunisation suspended from July to November.





TABLE V.—VITAL STATISTICS SINCE 1891

YEARS	POPULATION (R. G.'s Mid. Year Est.)	RATES PER 1,000 EST. POPULATION						Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)		RATES PER 1,000 TOTAL BIRTHS		
		LIVE BIRTH *		DEATH *		PHTHISIS DEATHS				Maternal Mortal- ity	STILL BIRTH	
		Oldbury	E. & W.	Oldbury	E. & W.	No.	Rate	Oldbury	E. & W.		Old- bury	Old- bury
—1895	21,331	40·82	30·5	21·33	18·7	89	·8344	201·8	151			
—1900	25,375	37·82	29·3	16·80	17·7	94	·7411	216·5	156			
—1905	25,798	36·28	28·2	17·45	16·0	77	·5969	175·0	138			
—1910	28,580	35·75	26·3	17·04	14·7	118	·8257	147·1	117			
—1915	33,856	30·12	23·6	15·47	14·3	115	·6793	137·6	110			
—1920	38,277	23·47	20·1	12·77	14·4	162	·8464	104·1	90			
1921	37,700	26·4	22·4	11·5	12·1	31	·8222	101·0	83	7·04		
2	38,390	24·8	20·6	11·6	12·9	31	·8074	69·0	77	3·15		
3	39,970	23·5	19·7	11·1	11·6	21	·5388	78·0	69	3·27		
4	40,050	21·9	18·8	9·5	12·2	30	·7490	68·0	75	4·56		
5	40,740	22·1	18·3	10·8	12·2	34	·8344	70·0	75	4·43		
6	42,080	20·4	17·8	9·7	11·6	27	·6415	55·8	70	1·16		
7	43,120	19·4	16·7	11·2	12·3	22	·5102	88·4	69	2·38		
8	33,760	21·7	16·7	11·1	11·7	29	·8589	67·8	65	3·64		
9	34,190	21·7	16·3	12·6	13·4	19	·5557	99·7	74	4·04		
930	35,000	21·5	16·3	10·8	11·4	36	1·0285	43·9	60	7·80		
1	36,370	20·8	15·8	11·1	12·3	21	·5773	68·6	66	3·86		
2	37,660	19·4	15·3	10·1	12·0	21	·5576	91·5	65	7·87		
3	39,560	17·4	14·4	10·5	12·3	23	·5813	89·7	64	2·83		
4	40,720	19·2	14·8	10·4	11·8	29	·7121	64·0	59	2·43		
5	41,900	18·9	14·7	9·7	11·7	31	·7398	65·6	57	2·40		
6	42,990	19·6	14·8	10·28	12·1	35	·8141	55·6	59	0·00		
7	44,450	18·94	14·9	11·09	12·4	25	·5624	65·32	58	2·24		
8	45,450	19·88	15·1	10·42	11·6	30	·6600	56·41	53	3·19		
9	47,000	18·51	15·0	9·96	12·1	28	·5956	64·59	50	3·31		
1940	48,700	18·74	14·6	11·17	14·3	39	·8008	49·34	55	4·20	38·94	36·1
1	49,390	16·94	14·2	9·98	12·9	30	·6074	70·47	59	1·15	33·48	34·4
2	49,530	19·97	15·8	9·63	11·6	34	·6864	46·51	49	2·92	37·00	33·0
3	50,100	21·89	16·5	9·84	12·1	42	·8382	41·02	49	1·84	35·18	30·2
4	50,220	21·42	17·6	8·86	11·6	26	·5176	37·18	46	2·70	29·75	27·7
5	50,040	20·22	16·1	9·03	11·4	26	·5194	33·59	46	1·93	23·16	27·6
6	51,890	19·32	19·1	9·55	11·5	38	·7322	35·89	43	0·00	26·21	27·2
7	52,510	19·97	20·5	9·54	12·0	27	·5141	36·22	41	2·78	26·90	24·1
8	53,350	17·22	17·9	8·90	10·8	15	·2811	41·34	34	2·14	13·94	23·2
9	53,380	16·46	16·7	13·12	11·7	28	·5245	34·12	32	2·23	18·97	22·7
1950	53,820	14·86	15·8	12·65	11·6	13	·2415	30·30	29·8	1·18	20·19	22·7
1	53,740	13·84	15·5	12·36	12·5	15	·2791	24·51	29·6	1·26	17·74	23·0
2	53,790	13·32	15·3	11·96	11·3	13	·2416	24·09	27·6	0·00	19·68	22·7
3	53,820	14·35	15·5	10·45	11·4	11	·2043	31·05	26·8	1·20	27·77	22·5
4	54,030	13·23	15·2	11·75	11·3	12	·2220	29·53	25·5	1·32	15·85	23·5
5	54,550	12·86	15·0	12·43	11·7	6	·1099	21·88	24·9	1·33	22·72	23·2
6	54,840	14·05	15·7	12·53	11·7	3	·0547	18·67	23·8	0·00	21·92	22·9
7	54,770	13·67	16·1	12·75	11·5	7	·1278	24·35	23·1	1·24	28·64	22·5
8	55,100	13·04	16·4	13·24	11·7	4	·0725	29·37	22·6	0·00	17·06	21·6
9	55,310	13·55	16·5	13·91	11·6	—	·0000	21·76	22·0	0·00	29·81	20·7

\* These rates are standardised as follows:—

Live Births from	...	...	...	...	1950
Deaths from	...	...	...	...	1949





BOROUGH OF OLDBURY

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

and

Cleansing Superintendent

for the

Year Ended 31st December, 1959

---

W. J. MASON, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

## BOROUGH OF OLDBURY.

---

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Oldbury.

---

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixth annual report of work carried out by the Staff of my Department during the year 1959.

### INSPECTIONS.

The total number of inspections and revisits to premises (7,189) was almost exactly the same figure as for the preceding year. The number of notices served (366) was in excess of the average figure for previous years.

#### Summary of Inspections and Re-visits during 1959.

	Inspec- tions	Re- visits
<b>Housing Act:</b>		
Repairs ... ..	—	4
Closing and Demolition ... ..	193	229
Improvement Grants ... ..	66	235
Overcrowding ... ..	49	61
Houses let-in-lodgings ... ..	—	—
<b>Public Health Act:</b>		
Repairs ... ..	408	758
Infectious Diseases ... ..	176	68
Water Closets and Drains ... ..	260	279
Drainage Tests ... ..	5	—
Offensive Trades ... ..	16	18
Water Courses and Canals ... ..	8	4
Dirty/Verminous Premises ... ..	59	55
Canal Boats ... ..	2	1
Foul Cellars ... ..	—	—
Keeping of Animals/Poultry ... ..	11	37
<b>Food and Drugs Act, etc.:</b>		
Meat and Other Foods Inspection ... ..	276	36
Slaughterhouses (excluding above) ... ..	4	8
Bakeries ... ..	1	12
Food Preparing Premises ... ..	33	43
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	12	10
Retail Food Shops ... ..	48	152
Markets ... ..	1	12
Food and Drugs Sampling ... ..	118	—

				Inspection	Re-visits
Dairies and Milk Shops ...	...	...	...	13	11
Water Sampling ...	...	...	...	10	—
Food Vehicles ...	...	...	...	8	8
Food Adulteration ...	...	...	...	9	4
Factories Act:					
Factories ...	...	...	...	5	—
Outworkers ...	...	...	...	—	—
Clean Air Act, etc.:					
Smoke Observations ...	...	...	...	46	—
Air Pollution (excluding above) ...	...	...	...	179	46
Smoke Control Areas ...	...	...	...	230	4
Other Acts, Byelaws, etc.:					
Certificates of Disrepair ...	...	...	...	19	43
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	...	...	...	13	10
Rats and Mice ...	...	...	...	94	74
Hairdressers ...	...	...	...	4	1
Pet Shops ...	...	...	...	1	—
Noise ...	...	...	...	6	13
Mines and Quarries (fencing) ...	...	...	...	1	12
Offensive Accumulations ...	...	...	...	21	8
Refuse Removal and Disposal (including dustbins) ...	...	...	...	1,374	56
Salvage ...	...	...	...	36	2
Depot Maintenance ...	...	...	...	3	11
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	616	30
Number of Interviews ...	...	...	...	412	—
				4,834	2,355

### Summary of Notices served during the year 1959.

Public Health Act, 1936:	Preliminary	Statutory
Nuisance Properties ...	171	25
Defective Water Closets (Section 45) ...	8	2
Proposed work of Maintenance on Sewers (Section 24) ...	—	12
Defective Drains (Section 39) ...	77	32
Insufficient Water Supply (Section 138) ...	—	10
O.U.D.C. Act, 1929:		
Defective Drains ...	—	12
Prevention of Damage by Pets Act, 1949 ...	1	—
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 ...	16	—
	273	93

## HOUSING.

At the end of 1959 there were 2,744 sub-tenants on the register of applications for municipal dwellings, according to figures supplied by the Housing Manager. This figure shows an increase of 35 on the corresponding figure for 1958 and again spotlights the acute housing problem in this Borough. The housing shortage has now been with us for very many years and its solution still lies in the rather distant future.

The number of new dwellings built by this Council in 1959 (101) was a marked improvement on the number for the previous year but still only one-third of the outstanding number built in 1957. The number of lettings allocated to the Health Department and my Department was, however, 63 per cent. of the total, which almost approached the percentage allocation already laid down by the Council.

Date order applicants	...	...	...	...	48
Special cases (Housing Department)			...	...	16
Health Cases (e.g. to abate overcrowding)	...			...	13
Cases referred from T.B. After-Care Committee				...	4
Slum clearance	...	...	...	...	93
					<hr/> 174 <hr/>

### REPAIRS TO HOUSES.

Although the number of notices served requiring repairs to houses under the Public Health and Oldbury Urban District Council Acts showed a decrease on the corresponding number for the previous year, the number of houses which were repaired and the number of defects remedied during 1959 showed an increase on the 1958 figures. It is regrettable that a minority of property owners still do not comply with notices and in 1959 16 houses had to have defects in them remedied in default by this Authority. This routine but essential work will continue despite the increasing demands which are being made on the Department in other directions.

### Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied.

			By Owner	By Local Authority
After informal action by Local Authority	...		229	—
After formal notice under:				
(a) Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	64	16
(b) Housing Act, 1957	...	...	—	—



**Summary of Defects Remedied, Improvements Effected and  
Nuisances abated under the Housing, Public Health and  
O.U.D.C. Acts during the year 1959.**

**Dwelling Houses:**

Roof repairs	...	...	...	62
Chimney stacks repointed/repared	...	...	...	23
Dangerous chimneys rebuilt	...	...	...	10
Chimney pots provided	...	...	...	2
Crest tiles repointed/rebedded	...	...	...	1
Defective spouting repaired or refixed	...	...	...	39
New spoutings provided	...	...	...	7
House brickwork repointed/repared	...	...	...	19
Dangerous brickwork of walls rebuilt	...	...	...	6
Walls damp-proofed	...	...	...	8
Plasterwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	49
Firegrates repaired or new provided	...	...	...	3
Sash cords provided to windows	...	...	...	32
Woodwork of windows repaired/renewed	...	...	...	29
Broken glazing renewed	...	...	...	3
Floors repaired or new provided	...	...	...	22
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	5
Woodwork of doors repaired	...	...	...	5
Verandahs repaired	...	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	17

**Wash-houses, Water Closets, etc.:**

Wash-houses reconstructed	...	...	...	4
Wash-house roofs repaired	...	...	...	8
Wash-house windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	1
Wash boiler furnaces repaired or new provided	...	...	...	1
Spoutings repaired or new provided	...	...	...	4
Water closet brickwork repointed/repared	...	...	...	4
Water closet roofs repaired	...	...	...	4
Water closets reconstructed	...	...	...	4
New pedestals provided	...	...	...	8
Flushing cisterns repaired or new provided	...	...	...	16
Leaking water closet joints repaired	...	...	...	9
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	8

**Drainage and Water Supply:**

Obstructed drains cleared	...	...	...	254
Drains relaid or repaired	...	...	...	12
Inspection chambers repaired and/or new covers provided	...	...	...	2
New sinks provided	...	...	...	2
Waste pipes repaired or new provided	...	...	...	5
Burst water pipes repaired	...	...	...	13
Courts, back yards and approaches paved/repared	...	...	...	7

### CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Only 18 applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year compared with 52 for 1958 and 68 for the latter half of 1957. The sharp decrease in the demand for the Council's intervention in this matter is noteworthy and it is to be hoped that this position reflects increasing agreements between landlord and tenant regarding repairs to their houses rather than a disinclination or inability of tenants to go through the complicated machinery laid down by the Rent Act.

#### Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

Number of applications for Certificates	...	...	18
Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	...	...	Nil
Number of decisions to issue Certificates:			
(a) for all defects specified by applicant	...	...	5
(b) for some defects specified by applicant	...	...	11
Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority	...	...	Nil
Number of undertakings given by landlords	...	...	4
Number of Certificates issued	...	...	14

#### Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

Number of applications by landlords for cancellation of Certificates	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	1
Number of objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	...	...	...	...	4

### SLUM CLEARANCE.

Activity under this heading proceeded at a steady if not spectacular pace during the year, and progress was rather better than in the previous year at least as far as the Department was concerned. 85 individual unfit houses were represented as unfit for ultimate demolition and 13 for closing, while two Clearance Areas were declared comprising 27 houses.

In all, therefore, 125 unfit houses were dealt with by the Department initially although it is significant that even at this late stage in 1960 (November) the occupants of 19 houses still await rehousing or some 15 per cent. of the total.

This is of course much better than the number of such houses dealt with in 1958 (31) but is still short of what we could achieve given a sufficiency of new houses for re-housing purposes.

It is to be hoped that this bottle-neck will be overcome before long so that this vitally essential work can proceed at a faster rate.

In the present slum clearance programme 410 unfit houses had been dealt with by the end of the year leaving approximately 800 for later action.

**Houses Demolished.**

<i>In Clearance Areas.</i>	Houses Demolished	Displaced during the year	
		Persons	Families
Houses unfit for human habitation ...	36	75	30
Houses included by reason of bad arrangements, etc. ...	—	—	—
Houses on land acquired under Section 43, Housing Act, 1957 (or Sec- tion 27, Housing Act, 1936) ...	3	—	—

*Not in Clearance Areas.*

As a result of formal or informal pro- cedure under Section 11, Hous- ing Act, 1936, or Sections 16 & 17, Housing Act, 1957 ...	38	118	39
Local Authority-owned houses (unfit)	6	52	20

**Unfit Houses Closed.**

	Number	Displaced during the year	
		Persons	Families
Under Sections 16, 17 or 35, Hous- ing Act, 1957 ...	11	50	11

**OVERCROWDING.**

Eight cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year, an increase of 5 on the previous year's figure. In view of the general housing situation and the demands being made from many quarters for municipal housing, this figure is not unsatisfactory though it obviously made little impression on the considerable social problem created by overcrowded families in a thickly populated district.

**IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.**

The year was notable for the introduction of "standard grants" under the Housing and House Purchase Act, 1959. Until this Act made a grant by the Council for the provision of certain amenities in a structurally sound house virtually compulsory, improvement grants were entirely at the discretion of the Council. £75 was the usual grant made by the Council towards an approved improvement scheme but as the Table below shows, very few applicants were pursuing their applications in the six months prior to the introduction of the standard grant. The new scheme immediately resulted in a considerable number of applications. Not all schemes as submitted are satisfactory and a substantial part of the Inspectors' time is devoted to advising amendments to plans. Nevertheless the new maximum grant of £155 stipulated in the Act is sufficiently attractive to maintain the increased rate of applications and for the first time since "improvement grants" were first introduced in the Housing Act, 1949, it may be stated that houses

are being provided with bathrooms, etc., with grant aid in reasonable numbers. One regrettable feature of these grants remains—only one application of 33 related to a tenanted house.

Undoubtedly what is really lacking is a housing standard more in accord with modern needs and there seems no sufficient reason why we should have so many different housing standards.

The “standard grant” scheme should in my view be obligatory and powers should be given to the local authority, similar to their existing powers under the Housing Act, 1957, to compel owners of existing soundly constructed tenanted houses to install these so-necessary amenities (I would prefer the word “necessities”) where they are lacking.

I think it is only a matter of time before this eventually comes about. In the meantime houses continue to decay with their ultimate drain on the Council’s future new houses.

Failing this owners of these houses must somehow be persuaded to seek these grants and whilst the number of applications shows a welcome increase it is still woefully short of the number required to bring all houses lacking the amenities up to the requisite standard.

		Stand- ard	Discretion- ary
1.	Number of applications received ...	33	1
2.	Number of applications approved ...	30	2
3.	Number of applications refused ...	—	—
4.	Number of applications not proceeded with by applicants ...	2	—
5.	Total cost of works/amenities ...	£6,769	£3,268
6.	Total amount of grant approved ...	£3,164	£225

### **DRAINAGE AND CONSERVANCY.**

The substantial works of increasing the capacity of the sewage works continued during the year; otherwise there was no alteration in the drainage and sewerage of the Borough. 15 premises only remain unconnected to a public sewer, all by reason of inaccessibility.

### **WATER SUPPLY.**

The supply of water to the Borough by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company remained entirely satisfactory during the year. 11 routine samples taken by the Department for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were satisfactory.

### **CANALS AND WATER COURSES.**

There was no material alteration in the condition of the above during the year and there is nothing further to add to the remarks made in last year’s report, except to add that action to fill in certain unsatisfactory canal “arms” has not materialised as expected. The position is one of frustration and there will be no end to the complaints received in this office until these lengths of canal are filled.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.

(a) The number of licences issued during the year under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations was as follows:—

1. Dealers' (Pasteurising Plant) ... ..	1
2. Dealers':—	
(a) Pasteurised ... ..	20
(b) Tuberculin Tested ... ..	7
(c) Sterilised ... ..	87
3. Supplementary:—	
(a) Pasteurised ... ..	15
(b) Tuberculin Tested ... ..	14
(c) Sterilised ... ..	15
	159

(b) Number of registered milk distributors retailing milk in the Borough whose premises are located:—

1. In the Borough ... ..	87
2. Outside the Borough ... ..	14

(c) Number of samples of pasteurised milk taken from the sole pasteurising dairy in the Borough:—

	Satisfactory	Uns'tory
(a) for bacteriological examination ...	42	—
(b) for chemical analysis ...	42	—

Number of samples of designated milk taken which originated outside the district:—

(a) for bacteriological examination ...	11	—
(b) for chemical analysis ...	11	—

Number of samples of pasteurised dairy cream taken from a dairy in the Borough carrying out own separation:—

(a) for bacteriological examination ...	12	—
(b) for chemical analysis ...	11	—

Number of samples of washed milk bottles ... 51 6

For the first time in the several years since regular sampling of fresh cream was commenced, all samples of cream separated in the pasteurising dairy in the Borough were satisfactory. This is indeed gratifying and it seems at last that the strenuous efforts made by the Department to improve the cleanliness of fresh cream are now bearing fruit. Perhaps it is no mere coincidence that the satisfactory position has dated from the introduction of in-bottle heat treatment by the dairy concerned.

The remaining dairy farm in the Borough ceased milk production at 31st March, 1959, and no milk is now produced in the district — a strong contrast to the position immediately after the first World War when there were no fewer than 52 registered dairy farms. Few tears need be shed over this, for the condition of, and methods of milk production at, many of the smaller farms in industrial areas left much to be desired and this is one case where concentration of the "industry" has brought distinct advantages.



## MEAT AND FOODS INSPECTION.

There was a slight increase in the number of food animals slaughtered during the year at the sole private slaughterhouse in the Borough, though this number was still substantially below the peak figure of 1957. The meat produced continued to be of a high standard and the premises were kept at all times in a satisfactory condition. No animals were killed for food on unlicensed premises and no overtime work by Inspectors was occasioned at the slaughterhouse.

**Meat and Other Foods Condemnation for the year 1959.**

					Weight				
					T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Carcase Meat and Offal (from sole private slaughterhouse)					...	...	10	0	3 0
Other Foodstuffs:—									
No. of tins, pkts., etc					T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	Ozs.
336	Ham	...	...	...	12		3	12	13
275	Meat	...	..	...	5		3	14	1½
115	Fish	...	..	...			1	9	13¾
822	Vegetables	..	...	...	4		2	4	14
300	Fruit	...	...	...	3		1	8	14¼
86	Soups	...	...	...			2	14	6
43	Milk	...	...	...			1	18	4
1	Cheese Spread	...	...	...					2
	Beef	...	...	...	2		0	6	8
11	Stew	...	...	...				11	3½
11	Fruit Juices	...	...	...				13	1
4	Cream	...	...	...				2	8
	Cheese	...	...	...	3		2	0	2
7	Sauces/Pickles	...	...	...				3	0½
7	Beverage/Cordial	...	...	...				4	13
14	Puddings	...	...	...				11	3½
	Sausage	...	...	...				13	0
49	Cakes/Pies	...	...	...			1	9	1¾
18	Cereals	...	...	...				16	12½
6	Syrup	...	...	...				10	0
1	Tea	...	...	...					8
5	Coffee	...	...	...					7
4	Jams	...	...	...				4	0
	Bacon	...	...	...	3		2	0	8
	Coconut	...	...	...				8	4
	Margarine	...	...	...			1	11	0
	Butter	...	...	...				24	0
	Cooking fat	...	...	...				2	0
3	Mustard	...	...	...					3
2	Tongue	...	...	...				7	0
					1	18	3	18	8¼
Plus slaughterhouse condemnations					...	10	0	3	0
					2	8	3	21	8¼

### Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Number killed .. .. .	205	7	6	927	670	—	1,815
Number inspected .. .. .	205	7	6	927	670	—	1,815
diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis							
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	82	4	—	96	60	—	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tubercu- losis and cysticercosis ..	40.00	57.14	—	10.35	8.95	—	
tuberculosis only							
Whole carcase condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	3	—	—	—	18	—	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis .. .. .	1.46	—	—	—	2.68	—	
cysticercosis							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ..	9	—	—	—	—	—	
Generalised and totally con- demned .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	

### Meat Inspection, 1959.

#### Reason for Condemnation:

#### Cattle (including Calves)

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Car- cases</i>	<i>Head and Tongue</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Kidneys</i>	<i>Mesen- teries</i>	<i>Thick Skirts</i>	<i>Udders</i>
tuberculosis .. .. .	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	—	—
abscesses .. .. .	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
ascariasis .. .. .	—	—	—	—	63	—	—	—	—
granulosa Cysts .. .. .	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis .. .. .	—	3	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Antastomes .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Pericarditis .. .. .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. .. .	—	4	4	7	65	2	6	—	1

#### Sheep

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Car- cases</i>	<i>Spleens</i>	<i>Mesen- teries</i>	<i>Omenta</i>	<i>Shanks</i>
Pneumonia and Congestion .. .. .	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Infection .. .. .	31	48	—	—	—	—	—	—
abscesses .. .. .	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis .. .. .	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Antastomes .. .. .	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Totals .. .. .	41	49	7	—	—	—	—	—

## (3) Pigs

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Heads</i>	<i>Lungs</i>	<i>Livers</i>	<i>Mesen- teries</i>	<i>Hearts</i>	<i>Kidneys</i>	<i>Feet</i>	<i>Spleens</i>	<i>Joints</i>	<i>Hocks</i>
Tuberculosis ..	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia, Congestion and Pleurisy ..	—	39	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyditis Cysts ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pericarditis ..	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Parasitic Infection ..	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hydronephrosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
Arthritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Totals ..	18	39	14	—	4	5	—	—	—	2

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The year was notable for the spate of legislation which came fully into force concerning the slaughter of animals for human foods. The outcome of it all was to require local authorities to submit to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food reports on every slaughterhouse in their areas. The task in this Borough was made relatively easy by (a) there being only one slaughterhouse remaining in operation and (b) the reconditioning of that slaughterhouse in 1955 to a standard substantially anticipating that brought in by the new legislation. The pattern for the foreseeable future regarding meat supplies in this Borough is therefore one butcher killing his own animals at his licensed slaughterhouse and the other butchers selling meat obtained from outside the Borough, mainly from the large abattoirs in adjoining districts.

## DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND MEAT AND FOOD.

Unsound meat and offals were disposed of after staining to a firm in an adjoining district carrying out dry rendering of animal wastes. All other unsound foodstuffs were disposed of at one of the Council's refuse tips.

No inspection of large or special consignments of food was necessary during the year.

## FOOD PREMISES.

The following food businesses were carried on during the year:—

Wholesale Grocers	...	...	...	...	3
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	4
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers (including sausage manufacturers)	...	...	...	...	49
Grocers (retail)	...	...	...	...	147
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	27
Catering establishments (excluding factory canteens)	...	...	...	...	23
Industrial Canteens	...	...	...	...	37
Fish Shops (Fried)	...	...	...	...	15
Sweets, Confectionery and Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	60

Fish and Greengrocery	...	...	...	...	7
Wet Fish retailers	...	...	...	...	2
Hotels	...	...	...	...	5
General	...	...	...	...	26
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	109
Food Factories (2 confectionery, 1 vinegar, 1 malt flour)	...	...	...	...	4
					<hr/> 519 <hr/>

The following food premises were registered by the Council at the end of the year:—

(a) *Under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:*

Sausage Preparation	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Manufacturing	...	...	...	...	3
Retail Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	110

(b) *Under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954:*

Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
---------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(c) *Under Section 69 of Oldbury Corporation Act, 1949:*

Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	8
Butchers	...	...	...	...	2
Ice Cream Vendors	...	...	...	...	5

162 inspections of registered premises were carried out during the year (including 105 re-inspections).

The figure of 360 visits to food premises showed a decrease on the figure for the previous year due to resumption of slum clearance work and a commencement being made with smoke control areas shown elsewhere in this report. These visits were mainly follow-up visits to ensure that work asked for earlier by informal notices had been carried out. An improvement has been effected at food premises as a whole but it would be idle to pretend that all food hygiene problems have been overcome. Perhaps the biggest obstacles to progress are the difficulty of educating personnel handling food, aggravated by the frequent changes of staff at food premises, and the meek acceptance by too large a proportion of the public of unsatisfactory practices which are rarely seen when an Inspector is present.

### **Improvements Effected to Food Premises.**

The Table below summarises the main improvements effected at food premises during the year:—

Premises cleansed and/or redecorated	...	...	...	...	18
Premises repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Wash basins provided	...	...	...	...	28
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	7
Additional hot water supplies provided	...	...	...	...	26
Food storage improved/new provided	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	2

Floor coverings provided	...	...	...	13
New counters provided and others repaired	...	...	...	13
Towelling improved	...	...	...	9
Screens provided to foodstuffs	...	...	...	20
First-aid facilities provided	...	...	...	5
Refrigerators provided	...	...	...	5
Lockers provided	...	...	...	1
Water closets cleansed and/or repaired	...	...	...	12
Clean hands notices provided	...	...	...	16
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	12

128 bacteriological swabs were taken of utensils and equipment in catering establishments of which 17 were unsatisfactory. The proportion of unsatisfactory swabs was an average figure and, whilst not unduly high, again showed the failure of some catering premises to ensure effective sterilisation of utensils and crockery.

#### FOOD VEHICLES.

Several food hawking vehicles were registered under the Old-bury Corporation Act, 1949, during the year and improvements to the interiors and exteriors of vehicles were effected. All retail food hawkers are required to have means of washing hands with a small wash basin and supply of hot water.

#### ICE CREAM AND LOLLIES.

Only 2 of the three small manufacturers of ice cream produced ice cream in 1959 and once again relied exclusively on complete cold mixes. 14 samples taken from their premises were all satisfactory, both bacteriologically and chemically. It must be reported, however, that the fat content of both these manufacturers' ice cream was below that produced by the reputable large manufacturers outside the district, and no dairy ice cream, with its better quality, was produced in the Borough.

10 other samples of ice cream produced outside the Borough were entirely satisfactory.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING.

6 samples of 175 taken during the year for chemical analysis were found to be adulterated or otherwise unsatisfactory. These were:—

<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Nature</i>	<i>Adulteration, etc.</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
2	Pork Sausages	Presence of sulphite preservative without notice being displayed.	Firms warned and preservative notices displayed
2	Beef Sausages	ditto	ditto
1	Pork Sausages	Slightly low meat content.	Formal sample taken. Firm warned and advice given on mixing ingredients.
1	Hen Egg Albumen	Excessive lactic acid.	Firm warned—stocks withdrawn from sale.



Other samples taken were:—

### Samples of Foods and Drugs taken for Chemical Analysis.

<i>Article Sampled</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Article Sampled</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Alcoholic spirits .. .. .	4	Meat paste .. .. .	1
Apples .. .. .	2	Milk .. .. .	63
Baby pudding .. .. .	1	Milk bread .. .. .	1
Black pudding .. .. .	1	Minced meat .. .. .	1
Buttered brazils .. .. .	1	Mince pies .. .. .	1
Butter drops .. .. .	1	Orange drink .. .. .	4
Chicken paste .. .. .	2	Parrish's food .. .. .	1
Chocolate spread .. .. .	1	Peppermints .. .. .	1
Chocolate vermicelli .. .. .	2	Rum and butter sweets .. .. .	1
Cold and influenza mixture .. .. .	1	Sauce .. .. .	1
Cooking fat .. .. .	2	Sausages .. .. .	4
Cream (fresh) .. .. .	11	Self-raising flour .. .. .	1
Dried peas .. .. .	1	Slimming tablets .. .. .	1
Edible shellac .. .. .	1	Sweet lollipops .. .. .	1
Egg albumen .. .. .	1	Tea .. .. .	1
Essence of coffee and chicory .. .. .	2	Tinned beans .. .. .	1
Flavoured milk .. .. .	1	Tinned fish .. .. .	1
Glucose sweets .. .. .	1	Tinned fruits .. .. .	2
Headache tablets .. .. .	1	Tinned meat and ham .. .. .	3
Ice cream and lollies .. .. .	24	Tinned peas .. .. .	2
Imitation cream .. .. .	2	Tinned soups .. .. .	2
Inhalent .. .. .	1	Tonic .. .. .	1
Jam .. .. .	2	Vinegar .. .. .	1
Jelly .. .. .	1	Vitamin syrup .. .. .	1
Lemons .. .. .	1	Vitamin and mineral capsules .. .. .	1
Margarine .. .. .	2		
Marzipan .. .. .	1		
			169

As a contrast to pre-war experience, very little deliberate adulteration of foods and drugs is detected nowadays. This is a tribute to the food and drugs manufacturers as a whole, and a reflection of the increase in food quality seen in this country since the war. Where composition of foods and drugs is not as shown on the label or not in accordance with a legal standard, such deviation is usually of a minor nature and little difficulty is experienced in rectifying the omission or discrepancy.

From the 1st April, 1959, direct charges for analysis of foods, drugs and air pollution gauges were imposed by the County Council in lieu of levying a lump sum as part of the County rate precept. The charges would appear reasonable but are subject to a minimum payment of £700 being made for this service. This figure is substantially less than the payments which were made under the old scheme and the new system of payments is therefore to be welcomed despite the extra clerical work occasioned thereby.

### FOREIGN BODIES IN FOOD.

Again the usual deplorable specimens of "foreign" articles in food made their appearance in 1959 and the following 8 forms of contamination were dealt with. As no improvement is being seen in this form of contamination, the Council's attitude to these offences hardened appreciably towards the end of the year. Ver-

bal and written warnings having had little effect, proceedings were taken successfully in one case; and, whilst every case will continue to be treated individually on its merits, the adoption of stronger measures is generally to be welcomed.

<i>Nature of Contamination</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1. Metal wire in sweet.	Firm given strong warning.
2. Dirt and debris in sack of flour.	Firm given strong warning.
3. Slug in packet of margarine.	Evidence of mode of access into margarine inconclusive. No action.
4. Flour moth in bag of flour.	Firm given strong warning.
5. Dead fly in ham and egg pie.	Firm given strong warning.
6. Oil/grease contamination in sliced loaf.	Firm prosecuted and fined £10.
7. Metallic discolouration from foil wrappers on mince pies.	Firm warned — new form of wrapper adopted.
8. Mould on sausages.	Firm given strong warning.

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

No problems arose from work under the above Acts which again was of a routine nature.

1. Inspections made for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Number of written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. .. .	6	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	197	5	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	6	—	2	—
	209	5	2	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted</i>
			<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Sanitary Conveniences (Section 7).					
(a) Insufficient .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective .. .. .	2	2	—	—	—
Total	2	2	—	—	—

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS.

The number of slaughtermen's licences issued during the year was 6.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Two offensive trade premises remain in the Borough, one processing animal wastes and the other dealing in rags.

Considerable nuisance was experienced with the former during the year, in common with other similar plants throughout the country. The greatest contributing factor was undoubtedly the prolonged very hot weather during the glorious summer of 1959 which caused serious deterioration in the condition of animal carcases and offals arriving at and being stored on the factory premises. Other factors of importance were unsatisfactory standards of "housekeeping" and failure to maintain condensing equipment at peak efficiency consequent upon ineffective management and control. The position became so serious that a senior representative of the Firm was interviewed by members of the Health Committee following which immediate action was taken to tighten "housekeeping" standards, comply with the Offensive Trade Byelaws and reject materials from certain sources. This action and the cooler weather of the autumn restored reasonably satisfactory conditions.

## AIR POLLUTION.

The year was one of steady progress following the introduction of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations and the new Alkali, etc. Works Order when experience was being gained with the enforcement of the new standards for industrial smoke emissions and with the working of the 1958 Alkali Order. Only two aspects will be referred to here since a synopsis of the general position regarding air pollution in the Borough was given fully in the report for 1958.

### MEASUREMENT OF AIR POLLUTION.

The first full year's work in recording air pollution from all sources, set out in the Table below, shows beyond doubt (if indeed doubt ever existed) that Oldbury is a "black area"—the term used in the Beaver Report on Air Pollution. The figures of deposited matter (that is, the visible grit, dust, ash, etc.) show a typical industrial area picture and emphasise that increased attention to grit and dust collection and suppression is called for, mainly by industry and the railways. The figures for **monthly** recordings of sulphur pollution are, in the main, reasonable, in view of the siting of the lead peroxide instruments in relation to heavy industry, particularly the large sulphuric acid producing plants, but the relatively high figure for Perryfields School, situated in the middle of an extensive residential area, gives cause for some concern. It is perhaps premature to judge these figures but further consideration is to be given to the siting of the instrument to see how far a purely local source of sulphur pollution is ad-

versely affecting the results. The **daily** volumetric smoke and sulphur dioxide apparatus, giving daily fluctuations in pollution levels, is perhaps the most useful of all the instruments and has been made more effective by the purchase of an electrical reflectometer to assess the concentration of smoke shown by the apparatus. In judging the amount of smoke recorded by this instrument it must be remembered that it is sensitive enough to show all sources of smoke including railway, vehicle and even cigarette smoke.

**Deposit Gauges (deposited matter in tons/sq. mile).**

Month			Portway Depot	Albright Schools	Langley Park	Perryfields Schools
January	..	..	14.70	31.71	24.15	12.05
February	..	..	14.93	21.10	14.54	7.13
March	..	..	18.81	24.90	28.70	10.84
April	..	..	17.03	26.99	29.00	9.97
May	..	..	17.41	18.82	25.53	12.07
June	..	..	20.75	22.68	22.99	18.03
July	..	..	17.84	20.55	36.82	8.64
August	..	..	18.03	18.27	23.43	11.67
September	..	..	13.40	11.17	15.83	6.94
October	..	..	23.22	22.51	27.70	12.20
November	..	..	16.31	24.81	21.07	7.07
December	..	..	16.94	38.29	19.81	9.81
Totals			209.37	281.80	289.57	126.42
Averages			17.45	23.48	24.13	10.53

**Lead Peroxide Instruments**  
(Weight of Sulphur Trioxide collected in mg/100 cm<sup>2</sup>).

Month			Broadwell Park	Albright Schools	Langley Park	Perryfields Schools
January	..	..	2.81	2.82	2.80	2.81
February	..	..	3.07	3.06	2.94	3.30
March	..	..	2.63	2.66	2.79	2.19
April	..	..	2.77	3.09	2.88	2.07
May	..	..	1.85	2.66	2.18	2.12
June	..	..	1.59	2.64	1.26	1.08
July	..	..	1.41	2.53	1.38	1.12
August	..	..	1.30	2.73	1.36	1.38
September	..	..	1.78	2.64	1.93	2.27
October	..	..	2.46	2.69	2.25	1.86
November	..	..	2.85	2.98	2.87	2.66
December	..	..	2.84	4.98	2.64	2.50
Totals			27.36	35.48	27.28	25.36
Averages			2.28	2.96	2.27	2.11

**Daily Volumetric Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide Apparatus.**

(Smoke—expressed in mg/100m<sup>3</sup> of air; Sulphur Dioxide—expressed as parts per 100,000,000 parts of air)

Month	SMOKE			SULPHUR DIOXIDE		
	Average	Maximum	Minimum	Average	Maximum	Minimum
January	..	..	..	39.1	130.9	7.4
February	..	..	..	25.2	69.3	6.1
March	..	..	..	16.2	27.6	4.9
April	..	..	..	11.7	20.6	4.6
May	..	..	..	8.4	21.1	2.8
June	..	..	..	6.5	13.7	2.5
July	..	..	..	6.2	15.9	2.7
August	..	..	..	6.4	13.4	2.8
September	..	..	..	11.6	23.5	6.4
October	..	..	..	16.1	49.0	4.0
November	..	..	..	26.0	82.0	5.0
December	..	..	..	22.8	52.0	13.0
Averages				16.3	43.3	5.2
				5.3	13.1	1.6



## DOMESTIC SMOKE.

The detailed survey of the Borough's first smoke control area was commenced towards the end of the year. The area covers the whole of what may be termed the Brandhall Estate and includes almost 1,000 houses owned by this Council and Smethwick Corporation and three schools. Further detailed comment must necessarily be deferred to next year's report. It will be sufficient here to repeat that this is the first step in the long journey towards the elimination of the low-level domestic smoke pall which hangs over this Borough in winter, and, to the sceptics, to quote the latest report of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on this matter, which states that the contribution made by domestic firegrates to the total smoke problem now exceeds substantially the figure of 50 per cent. put forward by the Beaver Committee.

The Table below summarises the main improvements effected in industrial air pollution. No applications for formal approval of new furnaces were received during the year but three notifications of intention to install new furnaces were noted. Two firms had their exemption certificates renewed during the year, relating to certain furnaces only.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Nuisance and/or source of air pollution</i>	<i>Improvement effected and/or action taken</i>
Phosphorus works	Emission of phosphorus pentoxide	New venturi scrubber installed
Asphalt manufacturing firm	Grit emission from asphalt plant	Plant shut down
Manufacturing chemists	Dark smoke emissions from boiler plant	New mechanical stokers installed
Confectionery works	Grit emissions from boiler plant	Modifications to boiler "dead plates" and underfeed stoker. Grit reduced
Iron and steel stampings factory	Dark smoke emissions	Furnaces converted to town gas firing
Iron and steel stampings factory	Dark smoke emissions	One coal-fired furnace taken out of commission and small boiler converted to oil firing
Tarmac manufacturing works	Dust and grit emissions	Maintenance of dust suppression equipment tightened and nuisance reduced
Boiler manufacturing works	Dark smoke emissions	Mechanical stoker firing rectified
Scrap metal premises	Smoke nuisance from scrap burning at ground level	Notice served and practice ceased
Steel tools factory	Dark smoke emissions	One large furnace converted to coke firing
Steel rolling mills	Dark smoke emissions from mobile cranes	Undertaking given to convert crane boilers to oil firing
Steel furniture manufacturing factory	Dark smoke emission	Boiler plant firing (by mechanical stokers) rectified
Iron foundry	Nuisance from fume emissions from metal pouring	Undertaking given to install fume extraction plant
Animal by-products factory	Nuisance from offensive smells	Condensing equipment overhauled and better methods of "house-keeping" enforced
Chemical works	Emission of phosphate powder	Dust collectors overhauled and nuisance abated
Tar distillation works	Offensive odours	Fracture on foul gas main rectified.



## RODENT CONTROL.

Routine work of controlling rats and mice, unspectacular but necessary though it is, continued during the year. A new Rodent Operative was appointed at the beginning of the year, the previous Operative having left the service of the Department after an unfortunate accident on his motor-cycle.

Although Ministry grant ceased, the Council wisely decided to continue this service and no alteration to the facilities offered to commerce, industry and householders has been occasioned by the cessation of the Ministry grant.

It should be noted that the figures in the Table following refer only to the nine month period from 1st April to 31st December which followed the withdrawal of the grant, but the figures showed the same amount of work carried out in that period compared with the previous twelve months due, as was said in last year's report, to recurring illness of the previous Operative.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Column No.	TYPE OF PROPERTY				Agricultural
	Local Authority	Non-Agricultural Dwelling Houses (incl. Council Houses)	All other (incl. Business Premises)	Total of Cols. (1) (2) and (3)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's district .. .. .	40	15,542	1,283	16,865	2
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:					
(a) Notification .. .. .	18	97	42	157	1
(b) Survey under the Act .. .. .	3	37	12	52	—
(c) Otherwise .. .. .	16	896	158	1,070	—
3. Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) .. .. .	59	2,635	811	3,505	5
4. No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats—Major .. .. .	2	—	2	4	1
Minor .. .. .	1	111	40	152	—
(b) Mice—Major .. .. .	—	2	—	2	—
Minor .. .. .	—	24	27	51	—
5. No. of infested properties treated by Local Authority .. .. .	21	134	53	208	1
6. Total treatments carried out including re-treatments .. .. .	24	161	65	250	1
7. No. of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment .. .. .	—	—	1	1	—
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing) .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
8. No. of cases in which default action was taken following a notice under Section 4 of the Act .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal proceedings .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—
10. No. of "Block" Control schemes carried out—NIL					

### CANAL BOATS.

22 canal boats were on the register at the end of the year and there were no new registrations during 1959. No problems arose from the administration of the Public Health Act and Canal Boat Regulations.

### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

47 houses (including 22 municipal houses) were treated for infestations during the year. Fewer complaints and requests for assistance were received but this should not be interpreted as evidence of the continuing decrease in the number of infestations. Indeed, the converse is probably more accurate, that there is a small, steady, but insidious increase in infestations despite the use of a greater variety of insecticides.

### PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

Routine sampling of the water at the Council's Vicarage Road baths was again carried out. The water is the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company's main supply and is therefore of a high bacteriological standard in the first instance. Continuation of satisfactory bacteriological and chemical standards is ensured by mechanical circulation of the water, purification by passing the water through pressure filters and the addition of a coagulant, control of p.H., and chlorination by chloronome. The water in the two baths is changed completely once every four hours and 11 samples taken during the swimming season for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were entirely satisfactory.

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The number of licences issued during the year to keep pet shops was 4.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE.

Note.—This portion of the report is for the financial year 1959/60 ending 31st March, 1960 and any reference to year should be read accordingly.

#### COLLECTION OF REFUSE.

As in the previous year a weekly collection of refuse was maintained except for a period of three weeks or so in January when heavy snow made conditions somewhat difficult.

Owing to the change of disposal site (see remarks under "Refuse Disposal") the weighing of all refuse collected ceased on the 28th October, 1959, and test weighings were commenced from that day. All loads are now weighed on one day per week and on a different day each week which method is calculated to give a fairly accurate estimate of the weight collected.

The weight per 1,000 population per day continues to increase, the figure for the present year being 15.77 cwts. as against 15.58 cwts. for 1958/59.

The estimated weight of refuse collected by the Department's vehicles showed an increase of 255 tons over the previous year while the number of dustbins being cleansed increased by 144.

No detailed figures as to costs for the financial year are yet available and the usual Cost Statement for the year is therefore omitted on this occasion.

#### LABOUR.

Owing to trouble experienced in the first half of the year and with a slight improvement in the labour situation in the district, the services of the contractor employed on one sub-district only were dispensed with on the 29th June and thereafter all direct labour was employed.

The dustbin incentive bonus scheme continues to be the "life-saver" of the Department and I feel sure that but for this scheme I should not be able to report a satisfactory collection of refuse.

On the other hand I am disturbed by the continuing high absentee rate in the Department.

How this works out in percentages month by month is given below (holidays excluded):—

Refuse Collection Only.			
	Total Man/Days Possible in Month	Actual Man/Days Lost	% Absentee Rate
April	... 504	57	11.3
May	... 462	23	4.97
June	... 484	19	3.93
July	... 644	82	12.73
August	... 540	75	13.88
September	... 462	87	18.83
October	... 462	91	19.69
November	... 446	32	5.49
December	... 448	15	3.34
January 1960	635	61	9.6
February	... 621	68	10.9
March	... 621	77	12.2
	<hr/> 6,329	<hr/> 687	Average <hr/> 10.8

**Refuse Disposal and Salvage.**

	Total Man/Days Possible in Month	Actual Man/Days Lost	% Absentee Rate
April	... 72	12	16.66
May	... 63	5	7.93
June	... 66	3	4.55
July	... —	—	—
August	... —	—	—
September	... 66	2	3.03
October	... 99	17	17.17
November	... 110	22	20.23
December	... 138	1	0.72
January 1960	... 130	10	7.7
February	... 138	13	9.4
March	... 115	53	46.0
	<hr/> 997	<hr/> 138	Average <hr/> 13.8

By far the greater percentage of absenteeism was due to certified sickness (719 man/days) and £830 was paid in sick pay under the Council's Sick Pay Scheme during the year.

The incentive bonus scheme, of course, does reward the conscientious workman at the expense of greater effort and serves to maintain collections, and in this respect alone is well worth while. Unfortunately refuse is produced every day and is no respecter of illness or casual absenteeism amongst the collectors. It also takes no account of holidays by the men and the Department is always at full stretch during the summer months, particularly at the time of the industrial fortnight holiday period.

The walking involved in emptying dustbins gets ever longer and more attractive estate lay-outs, whilst being aesthetically satisfying, do bring their own problems as far as the refuse collection service is concerned. The increasing prevalence of garages at the front building line of new houses also gives rise to problems of access and this point alone warrants careful thought on the part of all the persons responsible. A separate side gate would be a decided advantage in such cases and not only to the refuse collectors at that.

Certified sickness during the year was made up as follows:—

Illness	Man/Days Lost
Not stated on sick note ...	95
Bronchitis ...	77
Sprained wrist ...	69
Gastritis ...	62
Illegible ...	50

Illness					Man/Days Lost
Arthritis	...	...	...	...	49
Concussion	...	...	...	...	35
Sprained ankle	...	...	...	...	32
Influenza	...	...	...	...	28
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	24
Pharyngitis	...	...	...	...	21
Cephalgia	...	...	...	...	20
Injury to hand	...	...	...	...	19
Anxiety state	...	...	...	...	18
Coryza	...	...	...	...	17
Fibrositis	...	...	...	...	14
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	12
Head injury	...	...	...	...	12
Hernia	...	...	...	...	11
Tonsilitis	...	...	...	...	9
Stye and indigestion	...	...	...	...	8
Swollen glands	...	...	...	...	6
Injury to eye	...	...	...	...	6
Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	6
Vertigo	...	...	...	...	6
Lumbago	...	...	...	...	4
Injury to back	...	...	...	...	4
Conjunctivitis	...	...	...	...	3
Attending surgery (for follow-up examination)	...	...	...	...	2
Total					719

Casual absences (no sick note submitted) 208

It is perhaps interesting to note that injuries alone accounted for 188 man/days being lost.

Perhaps the whole problem of labour troubles can be summed up in the fact that 23 men left the service during the year and 23 different men were taken on as replacements. With a total established strength of 31 men (excluding Foreman) the percentage figure is an astounding one.

#### TRANSPORT.

Side loading refuse collection vehicles continued in use during the whole of the year.

The year of purchase of these vehicles is as follows:—



No. 7 Freighter	...	...	...	1940.
No. 8 Freighter	...	...	...	1946.
No. 9 Freighter	...	...	...	1948.
No. 10 Freighter	...	...	...	1951.
No. 11 Freighter	...	...	...	1952.
No. 12 Freighter	...	...	...	1955.
No. 13 Freighter	...	...	...	1957.
No. 14 Freighter	...	...	...	1958.

The two oldest machines have now seen their best days and should be replaced as soon as possible being of the old tiller-steering type with spare parts exceeding difficult to obtain.

#### DISPOSAL.

As forecast in this section of my Annual Report for 1958/59 the Council was successful in negotiating the purchase of the marl-hole only of the Titford Brickworks site in August 1959 for use as a refuse tip, and with the virtual completion of the Taylor's Lane tip to the finished level the new tip was brought into partial use on the 7th September, 1959.

The site, some  $7\frac{1}{2}$  acres in area, prior to its acquisition by the Council had been used as a private tip and presented a most sorry spectacle at the commencement. Water had been allowed to accumulate unchecked and fire had raged in one bank for some months.

Hundreds of steel drums and metal containers, trees, lorry cabs and other items too numerous to mention had been tipped indiscriminately over a 50 feet or so face and no attempt at tidiness had even been attempted.

As a start all the metal lorry cabs, drums and anything salvageable was collected together and sold to scrap merchants and at the same time a road down to the bottom of the hole was commenced. No less than 1,160 loads of rubble, soil, etc., were tipped and levelled by an angle-dozer to construct the road down and a final surface was laid by the 28th October when the first loads of house refuse were tipped there and the Taylor's Lane tip finally closed down. At the same time the electrical pumping gear had been overhauled, the overhead power line re-erected on the Council's land and full-scale pumping commenced.

No sooner had tipping got really under way than an almost disastrous spell of wet weather arrived and conditions were really appalling. The road down gave way under the terrific pressure of water from the leaking brook-course adjoining the site. A road diversion was immediately commenced and despite tremendous odds the diversion was completed and finally consolidated to give access to the bottom of the tip. Water hampered tipping operations throughout the entire winter but by dint of ingenuity, extended pumping and sheer pertinacity on everyone's part we eventually won through to the spring with the tip looking as orderly as the previous site and once more looking as I would like.

I think it illustrates the difficulties experienced merely to say that on one day I shall not forget in a hurry every lorry that came

on to the tip had to be towed out by the dozer to the top level through thick mud almost a foot deep. The dozer, purchased with the tip itself, proved one of the best acquisitions this Council has ever made.

Costs for the year are not yet available but under all the circumstances will not, I estimate, be unfavourable, bearing in mind the difficulties encountered and the income from tipping which was received during the road construction operations.

At the close-down of the Taylor's Lane tip some 250,000 tons of refuse had been tipped there since it was first used as a tip in January 1940.

#### SALVAGE.

The total income for the year was £3,311, some £1,027 less than in the previous year. Provisional expenditure, however, was also down by £1,028 to £3,044, some £979 of this under-spending being due to sheer non-availability or sickness of personnel.

#### Public Cleansing Service.

##### Operational Statistics for Year ended 31st March, 1960.

Area (statute acres) .. .. .	3,300 acres
Population at 30th June, 1959 .. .. .	55,310 persons
Total refuse collected (tons) .. .. .	8,383 A) 15,924 7,541 T) tons
Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day .. .. .	15.77 cwts.
No. of premises from which refuse is collected .. .. .	16,393 premises
Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly ..	100% of total
Average haul to final disposal point .. .. .	1.2 miles at 31/3/60
Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total collection ..	Nil %
Total refuse disposed of .. .. .	17,606 tons (excl. road filling at Titford Tip)

#### Methods of disposal:

(a) Crude tipping .. .. .	— %
(b) Controlled tipping .. .. .	100 %
(c) Direct incineration .. .. .	— %
(d) Separation and incineration .. .. .	— %
(e) Other methods .. .. .	— %
	<hr/> 100 %

#### Salvage. Analysis of income and tonnage:

	<i>Income</i> <i>(Included in</i> <i>Item 2)</i> £	<i>Tonnage</i> <i>Collected</i> <i>(Included in Item 12)</i> Tons
(a) Raw kitchen waste ..	—	—
(b) Scrap metal .. ..	29	14
(c) Waste paper .. ..	3,282	414
(d) Other salvage .. ..	—	—
	<hr/> 3,311	<hr/> 428

#### Trade Refuse:

- (a) Income £1,711 (includes income from hard core and soil tipped in making road to new tip).
- (b) Tonnage 1,682 tons (disposed of only by Department at tip).

**Note:** Tonnage collected and disposed of by Department included in Item 12 above.

### PROVISION OF DUSTBINS (Rate Fund Scheme).

Expenditure on this service for the current year and the previous four years are given below:—

	1955/6	1956/7	1957/8	1958/9	1959/60
No. of unserviceable bins replaced	1,817	1,810	1,611	1,441	1,060
Cost of dustbins	£2,726	£3,593	£2,821	£2,436	£1,875
Equivalent rate charge in £	2.71d. (old valuation)	1½d.	1.23d.	1.059d.	0.66d.

As will be seen the number of bins supplied under this scheme continues to drop, and in fact achieved a record low figure since the inception of the scheme in 1951. The replacement rate in 1955/6 was 11.2 per cent. of the total number of bins then in use whereas the figure for the year now under review is 6.1 per cent., and amply justified the continuation of this scheme.

### STAFF.

Yet again I am able to report no change in the personnel of the administrative and clerical staff of the Department.

I am also happy to record the success of a pupil in the Department (Mr. J. Jeavons) who obtained his Public Health Inspectors Certificate in June, 1959, and was duly appointed Additional Public Health Inspector on the 1st August, 1959.

### CONCLUSION.

My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and my colleagues in other Departments for the help, co-operation and support they have given me during the year.

I also express my grateful thanks to all my staff, both Inspectors, Clerks and manual employees for their loyal work during the year. I am happy to have worked with them all in what may appear to be an unspectacular occupation but which nevertheless is a very necessary and vital one to the well-being of the community as a whole.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. MASON,

Chief Public Health Inspector  
and Cleansing Superintendent.

Municipal Buildings,  
Oldbury.

November, 1960.







